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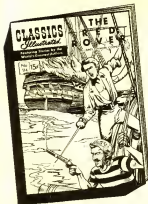
THE FORTY-FIVE GUARDSMEN

By ALEXANDRE DUMAS

No. 113 15¢



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THE FORTY-FIVE GUARDSMEN

By ALFREDIC DAMAS



ON THE 26TH DAY OF OCTOBER, 1793, THE BARRIERS OF THE PORTE SAINT ANTOINE, ONE OF THE GATES TO PARIS, WERE STILL CLOSED AT HALF PAST TEN IN THE MORNING. THOUSANDS OF PARISIANS POURED IN FROM EVERY QUARTER TO WITNESS THE EXECUTION OF SALGÉDE, A SPYWARD WHO HAD BEEN FOUND GUILTY OF ATTEMPTED ASSASSINATION AGAINST THE ROYAL FAMILY. HUNDREDS OF PLOTS, COUNTER-PLOTS AND THREATENED REVELS FILLED THE AIR AS THE PEOPLE WAITED IMPATIENTLY FOR THE GATES TO OPEN...

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TRUMPETS BLARED FORTH
SILENCING THE CROWD
THEN THE CRIER ANNOUNCED...



THE GATES WILL REMAIN CLOSED TO
THE GENERAL PUBLIC TILL THE HOUR
OF NOON. THOSE BEARING SIGN OF
RECOGNITION WILL
BE ALLOWED TO
ENTER NOW



A MAN
APPROACHED
THE CAPTAIN
OF THE GUARD,
LOIGNAC. HE
HELD A CARD
WHICH HAD
BEEN TORN IN
HALF. LOIGNAC
FITTED IT TO
HALF A CARD
WHICH HE HELD.

ERRATON de CARMAINSES,
26th OCTOBER, NOON PRE-
CISELY, PORTE SAINT ANTOINE



HIS CREDENTIALS
FOUND SATISFACTORY,
LOIGNAC ALLOWED
THE FELLOW TO ENTER

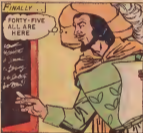


ARRIVING singly and in pairs, others arrived at the booth of LOISNAC, PRESENTED THEIR CREDENTIALS AND WERE ADMITTED. LOISNAC WENT INTO THE BOOTH AND WROTE THE NAMES ON A BLACKBOARD, PLACING A NUMBER AFTER EACH NAME.



FINALLY...

FORTY-FIVE
ALL ARE
HERE



AT TWELVE NOON, THE GATES WERE THROWN OPEN AND THE CROWDS POURED THROUGH.



THESE FOOLS WILL HAVE THEIR THIRST FOR BLOOD SATISFIED IF THEY HAVE TO KILL EACH OTHER TO DO SO.



SATISFIED THAT THERE WAS NOTHING MORE OF INTEREST TO DETAIN HIM, BRIQUET TURNED AND WENT OFF TO HIS DINNER.



IN A ROOM OVERLOOKING THE PUBLIC SQUARE, GATHERED TO WATCH THE EXECUTION WERE KING HENRY THIRD, QUEEN LOUISE, AND THE DOWAGER QUEEN CATHERINE.



A HANDSOME AND RICHLY DRESSED YOUNG MAN ENTERED AND WAS GREETED BY THE KING.

JOYEUSE, IT IS GOOD TO SEE YOU HERE, TOO. IT IS FITTING THAT WE SHOULD ALL BE TOGETHER ON SUCH AN OCCASION.

I HAVE COME AT YOUR REQUEST, SIRE. BUT I HAVE NO HEART FOR THIS SORT OF THING.



DO YOU THINK, MOTHER, THAT SALCEGE WILL BE READY TO SIGN A CONFESSION?



I CAN ONLY PRAY THAT HE WILL. BUT WE MUST NOT HESITATE TO SUBMIT HIM TO THE TORTURE IF THERE IS ANY CHANCE OF A CONFESSION.

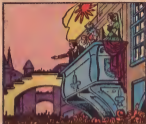


LOOK, THERE IS A TUMULT GOING UP FROM THE CROWD.

THEY ARE BRINGING SALCEGE TO THE SCAFFOLD.



ALL WATCHED ANXIOUSLY FOR THE ARRIVAL OF THE CONDEMNED MAN ON THE SCAFFOLD.



AS THEY WAITED, CATHARINE TAUNTED LOUISE ABOUT HER RUMORED BLOOD RELATIONSHIP TO SALCEGE.



HOW FLATTERING IT IS TO KINGS TO WITNESS THE QUARTERING OF A MAN WHO HAS A DROP OF ROYAL BLOOD IN HIS VEINS.

OH, MADAME, PARDON ME, SPARE ME! THIS MAN IS NOT OF MY FAMILY.



CERTAINLY NOT, AND I AM QUITE SURE THAT MY MOTHER DID NOT MEAN TO SAY SO.

BUT HE BELONGS TO THE LORRAINES, AND THE LORRAINES ARE YOUR PEOPLE, MADAME. THIS SALCEGE IS THERE FORE CONNECTED WITH YOU, AND CLOSELY.



AT THAT MOMENT, A SHOUT WENT UP FROM THE CROWD SURROUNDING THE SCAFFOLD...



LOOK, THERE IS SALCEGE NOW. THEY ARE BRINGING UP THE HORSES FOR THE QUARTERING.

SALCEDO WAS QUICKLY PUT DOWN AND HIS WRISTS AND ANKLES TIED TO FOUR HORSES.



AT THAT MOMENT, COUNCILLORS WERE CHERGED INTO THE KING'S PRESENCE.



MAY WE HAVE A MOMENT WITH YOUR MAJESTY?

SPEAK UP, MAN, WHAT IS IT?

WE ASK A STAY OF THE EXECUTION TO OBTAIN A CONFESSION, SIRE

YOU THINK YOU CAN OBTAIN A CONFESSION?



I AM CERTAIN OF IT, YOUR MAJESTY. A CONFESSION WILL MOST CERTAINLY INVOLVE OTHERS WHO HAVE BEEN CONSPIRING AGAINST YOUR THRONE.

THEY ARE RIGHT, HENRY WE MUST APPLY THE TORTURE TO SALCEDO UNTIL HE HAS WRITTEN DOWN THE NAMES OF HIS CO-CONSPIRATORS





LET THEM HALT THE EXECUTION, AND HAVE THEM TAKE PAPER AND PEN TO THE CONDEMNED MAN.

A MESSENGER RUSHED TO THE SCAFFOLD TO DELIVER THE KING'S MESSAGE . . .



OVERCOME WITH FEAR OF THE TORTURES HE KNEW HE WOULD BE SUBMITTED TO, SALCEDE CONSENTED TO WRITE A FULL CONFESSION.

AT THAT MOMENT, A MAN WHO HAD ELUDED THE GUARD SLIPPED SILENTLY UNDERNEATH THE SCAFFOLD FLOOR AND MADE HIS WAY DIRECTLY BENEATH THE SPOT WHERE SALCEDE WAS ABOUT TO WRITE HIS CONFESSION. HE DREW A DAGGER FROM HIS BELT AND . . .



HE IS DEAD! SALCEDE IS DEAD!

THE NEWS WAS QUICKLY BROUGHT TO THE KING.



I HAVE BEEN OUTWITTED BY MY ENEMIES!

NEXT DAY, AT A HOTEL IN PARIS WHERE THE FORTY-FIVE GUARDSMEN WERE QUARTERED.

HERE, ERNAUTON, READ THIS ORDER.



I HEREBY ENPOWER CAPTAIN LOISNAG TO TAKE COMMAND OF THE FORTY-FIVE WITH THE CONSENT OF THE KING... SIGNED DUC D'EPERNON.

YOU HAVE HEARD THE ORDER ISSUED BY DUC D'EPERNON IN THE NAME OF THE KING. YOU ARE TO PROCEED IMMEDIATELY TO THE BOATS WHERE YOU ARE TO EMBARK FOR THE KING'S PALACE.



THE MEN RECEIVED THIS NEWS OF POSSIBLE ADVENTURE WITH GREAT JOY.

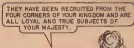


THAT NIGHT, D'EPERNON LED KING HENRY TO THE CHAMBER OF THE FORTY-FIVE.



WHO ARE THESE MEN?

THEY ARE YOUR BODYGUARD, SIRE.



THEY HAVE BEEN RECRUITED FROM THE FOUR CORNERS OF YOUR KINGDOM AND ARE ALL LOYAL AND TRUE SUBJECTS OF YOUR MAJESTY.



YOU DO ME A GREAT SERVICE, D'EPERNON. BUT PRAY, WHY FORTY-FIVE MEN?



YOU WILL ALWAYS HAVE THREE TIMES FIFTEEN GENTLEMEN, FIFTEEN FOR SERVICE, THIRTY WHO REST. EACH SERVICE WILL LAST THREE HOURS; YOU WILL ALWAYS HAVE FIVE ON THE RIGHT HAND, FIVE ON THE LEFT HAND, TWO BEFORE AND THREE BEHIND. LET ANY ONE ATTACK YOU WITH SUCH A GUARD AS THAT.

WITH A STRONG FEELING OF SECURITY, HENRY RETIRED TO HIS CHAMBER AND WAS SOON FAST ASLEEP ...



SUDDENLY, HE WAS AWAKENED BY A NOISE IN THE ROOM ...

JOYEUSE, IS IT YOU?



IT IS I, YOUR MAJESTY.

SPRINGING OUT OF BED, HENRY SNATCHED UP A CANDLE AND SAW A FAMILIAR FACE ...

CHICOT! IT IS INDEED YOU!

YES, YOUR MAJESTY. CHICOT OR BROUET, IT IS STILL I.



IT IS GOOD TO SEE YOU AGAIN, CHICOT. I HAD LONG GIVEN YOU UP FOR DEAD.

BUT HOW DID YOU GET INTO MY CHAMBER WITHOUT DISTURBING THE GUARD?



YOUR MAJESTY FORGETS I STILL HAVE THE KEY TO THE SECRET DOOR. AFTER THE HAPPENINGS AT THE SCAFFOLD, I THOUGHT THIS WOULD BE A GOOD TIME TO SLIP IN AND WATCH OVER YOU AS YOU SLEPT, SIRE.

WELL DONE, CHICOT. BUT FEAR NOT, I AM VERY WELL SECURED, THANKS TO D'EPERNON.

SO YOU WERE AT THE SCAFFOLD TO SEE THE QUARTERING

I DID NOT STAY BUT I WANDERED ABOUT WITH MY EYES OPEN AND MY EARS TUNED TO THE RAINTINGS OF THE CROWD.



AND DID YOU HEAR ANYTHING, MY FRIEND?

ENOUGH, SIRE, I HAVE LEARNED THAT YOUR BROTHER-IN-LAW, HENRY OF NAVARRE, IS PLOTTING TO SEIZE COGNAC, WHICH HE CLAIMS HAS BEEN PLEDGED TO HIM BY YOUR MAJESTY AS A DOWRY.



WHAT ELSE HAVE YOU HEARD?

I HAVE NEWS FROM ANTWEP THAT YOUR BROTHER, THE DUC O'ANJOU, IS ABOUT TO BE ATTACKED BY HIS ENEMIES AND IS IN DIRE NEED OF ASSISTANCE



HENRY PONDERED A MOMENT AND THEN SPoke...

CHICOT, I HAVE A MISSION FOR YOU.

AS ALWAYS, AT YOUR SERVICE, SIRE



HENRY SAT DOWN AT A TABLE AND WROTE A FEW LINES ON A SHEET OF PARCHMENT.



YOU WILL DELIVER THIS LETTER TO HENRY OF NAVARRE. YOU MAY FIND THIS A DANGEROUS MISSION, CHOCOT, IN WHICH CASE I WOULD SUGGEST AN ESCORT.



I DO NOT UNDERRATE THE DANGER OF THE MISSION, SIRE, BUT MY BEST ESCORTS ARE MY SWORD AND DAGGER.



HAVING SENT CHOCOT ON HIS WAY, HENRY RANG FOR A SERVANT.



FIND THE DUC DE JOYEUSE AND BRING HIM TO ME.



IN A FEW MINUTES, JOYEUSE WAS USHERED INTO THE KING'S PRESENCE.



AFTER LEAVING KING HENRY, CHICOT WASTED NO TIME IN STARTING ON HIS MISSION TO THE KING OF NUBARRÉ. THAT EVENING, HE ARRIVED AT THE VILLAGE OF ETAMPES.



HE CHECKED IN AT AN INN AND WAS GREETED GRACIOUSLY BY THE HOST.

AFTER DINNER ...

ARE YOU SURE THERE ARE NO OTHER GUESTS ON THE FLOOR? I MUST HAVE QUIET AS I AM A LIGHT SLEEPER.

NOT A SOUL, MONSIEUR, NOT A SOLITARY SOUL ON THE ENTIRE FLOOR.

CHECKING THE DOORS AND WINDOWS, CHICOT RETIRED AND WAS SOON ASLEEP.



AS CHICOT SLEPT, SIX ARMED MEN APPEARED AT THE DOOR OF THE INN AND DISMOUNTED.

THEY WERE GREETED BY THE HOST WHO SEEMED TO BE EXPECTING THEM.

YOU KNOW IN WHOSE NAME WE ACT, AS YOU ARE YOURSELF A DEFENDER OF THE CAUSE.

I AM INDEED, MONSIEUR, I AM INDEED.



BUT I MUST BEG YOU GENTLEMEN TO SPARE MY HOUSE FROM EXCESSIVE DAMAGE.



NEVER FEAR, WE WON'T BREAK A WINDOW, SET YOU TO BED, CLOSE THE DOORS AND DO NOT MOVE NO MATTER WHAT YOU MAY SEE OR HEAR.



THEY

YOU TWO PLACE YOURSELVES UNDER HIS WINDOW AND CUT OFF HIS ESCAPE FROM THIS SOURCE.



THE OTHER FOUR MOUNTED THE STAIRS TO CHEST'S ROOM.



IF HE OFFERS NO RESISTANCE, YOU ARE TO TAKE THE LETTER CONCEALED ON HIS PERSON, BUT NOT TO HARM HIM.



IF HE RESISTS, USE YOUR DAGGERS BUT NOT YOUR PISTOLS.



A KNOCK ON THE DOOR AWAKENED CHICOT FROM HIS SLEEP.

WHO'S THERE?



FRIENDS WHO WISH TO HAVE A WORD WITH YOU.



SPRINGING OUT OF BED, CHICOT RUSHED TO THE WINDOW AND SAW TWO MEN WITH DRAWN SWORDS BLOCKING HIS ESCAPE.



GOOD HEAVENS, I AM CAUGHT.

THE MEN OUTSIDE THE DOOR HEARD THE WINDOW OPEN.

AH, YOU FEAR THE DANGEROUS JUMP. COME, OPEN TO US, OPEN!





THEY HAVE MUSKETS IN THE HALL AND SWORDS DOWN BELOW.



THE MEN PUT THEIR MUSKETS TO USE IN TRYING TO BREAK DOWN THE DOOR



I PREFER THE SWORDS TO THE MUSKETS

AS CHYOT JUMPED TO THE GROUND, THE TWO MEN, TAKEN BY SURPRISE, QUICKLY DREW BACK...



QUICK AS A FLASH, CHYOT SPRANG AT THE TWO, VANQUISHING THE ONE NEAREST HIM AND QUICKLY ENGAGING THE OTHER



WITH A FEW DEFT STROKES, CAICOT FINISHED OFF HIS SECOND OPPONENT ... THEN TOOK TO HIS HEELS. . .



MEANWHILE, THE OTHER FOUR ASSASSINS HAD BURST INTO THE ROOM ABOVE...



HE IS A DEMON, HE IS PROOF AGAINST STEEL.

YES, BUT NOT AGAINST LEAD.



FOOL, NO NOISE YOU WILL AWAKEN THE WHOLE TOWN. WE SHALL CATCH HIM TOMORROW



THE LEADER OF THE GROUP PLACED THE DEAD MEN'S SWORDS BY THEIR SIDES TO MAKE IT APPEAR AS THOUGH THEY HAD QUARRELLED AND KILLED ONE ANOTHER.



FLUDDING HIS WOULD-BE ASSASSINS, CHICOT ACQUIRED A FRESH HORSE AND IN THREE DAYS ARRIVED AT BORDEAUX. . .



AT AN INN, HE MADE INQUIRIES AS TO THE WHEREABOUTS OF THE KING OF NAVARRE. . .



A MAN WHO CALLS HIMSELF CHICOT DESIRES AUDIENCE WITH YOU, SIRE.

SHOW HIM IN QUICKLY!

BEING ADVISED THAT THE KING WAS STAYING AT RERAC, HE ARRIVED THERE AT DUSK AND WAS USHERED INTO THE OUTER ROOM OF THE KING'S CHAMBER. . .



WELCOME, CHICOT. IT IS A LONG TIME SINCE WE HAVE MET. HOW IS MY DEAR BROTHER-IN-LAW?



WELL, THOUGH SOMEWHAT WORRIED, YOUR MAJESTY, HE SENDS HIS COMPLIMENTS.



HENRY
RANG
FOR THE
PAGE AND
ORDERED
WINE AND
REFRESH-
MENTS
TO BE
SERVED...

WHAT BRINGS YOU, CHICOT?
IS THIS A PERSONAL VISIT OR
HAS YOUR MASTER SENT YOU?

THE KING HAS
SENT ME AS HIS
AMBASSADOR.



AMBASSADOR! SO MY
BROTHER-IN-LAW HAS
SOME IMPORTANT NEWS
TO CONVEY TO ME?

HE HAS EN-
TRUSTED ME
WITH THIS
LETTER FOR
YOU, SIRE.

"MY VERY DEAR BROTHER, YOUR
SERVANT, M. de TURENNE, CAUSES DAILY
SCANDAL AT YOUR COURT YOUR WIFE,
WHOM, TO MY REGRET, I CALL MY
SISTER, HAS BEEN OBLOVIAL TO YOU
AND IS BRINGING DISGRACE AND
INJURY TO THE HOUSE OF BOURBON
I EMBRACE YOU, AND RECOMMEND MY
ADVICE BEING EVER READY TO AID
YOU IN ALL, AND FOR ALL. YOUR
AFFECTIONATE, ETC.

SO HENRY OF FRANCE
IS TRYING TO EFFECT A
BREAK BETWEEN ME
AND MY QUEEN SO THAT
HE MAY BACK OUT OF
HIS PROMISE TO
DELIVER CONDORS
TO ME WE
SHALL SEE.



AT THAT MOMENT, A PAGE APPEARED AT THE DOOR.



THE SPANISH AMBASSADOR,
YOUR MAJESTY



MAY I
LEAVE,
SIRE?

NO, CHOOT, STAY BUT
HIDE BEHIND THESE DRAPES.



WELCOME TO
NAVARRRE,
MONSIEUR

THANK YOU, SIRE. GREETINGS FROM
MY MASTER, THE KING OF SPAIN



AFTER A FEW MINUTES OF PLEASANTRIES, WHICH
THEY BOTH EXCHANGED, THE AMBASSADOR STATED
HIS MISSION.



I BRING THE REPLY OF
THE SPANISH KING TO YOUR
PROPOSAL OF LAST MONTH



GOOD. IF HE BRINGS
A REPLY, THEN THERE
MUST HAVE BEEN
A DEMAND.



MY KING, ALTHOUGH EAGER TO SIGN A TREATY OF ALLIANCE WITH LORRAINE, HAS REGARDED AN ALLIANCE WITH NAVARRE AS MORE ADVANTAGEOUS.

YES, YES, PROCEED.



MY MASTER HAS INSTRUCTED ME TO SAY, SIRE, THAT HE OFFERS YOU THE INFANTA, HIS DAUGHTER, IN MARRIAGE, AND HE HIMSELF WILL ACCEPT THE HAND OF YOUR MAJESTY'S SISTER, MADAME CATHARINE OF NAVARRE.

THIS IS INDEED AN ALLIANCE THAT MIGHT SHAKE MY MASTER'S KINGDOM

HENRY BID THE AMBASSADOR TO CONTINUE . . .

MY MASTER WILL ALLY HIMSELF WITH YOUR MAJESTY IN A DOUBLE MARRIAGE HE WILL HELP YOUR HIGHNESS TO SUCCEED TO THE THRONE OF FRANCE AND IN RETURN, YOU ARE TO GUARANTEE FLANDERS TO HIM.

MONSIEUR, TELL YOUR MASTER THAT I REFUSE HIS OFFER. DOES HE WISH THAT I DRAW MY SWORD AGAINST THE KING OF FRANCE, MY BROTHER-IN-LAW, FOR THE SPANARD, A STRANGER? SHALL I HAVE BROTHERS SLAIN BY BROTHERS? SAY TO PHILIP THAT I AM VERY GRATEFUL FOR HIS OFFERS BUT THAT I CANNOT ACCEPT THEM



HAVING DISMISSED THE SPANISH AMBASSADOR, HENRY CALLED TO CHCOT TO COME OUT FROM HIS HIDING PLACE



YOU, SEE, CHCOT, THAT BOTH PHILLIP AND HENRY THE THIRD ARE ANXIOUS TO HAVE ME REPUDIATE MY QUEEN MARGARITE. I TELL YOU THAT THEY SHALL NEITHER HAVE THEIR DESIRES SATISFIED. I SHALL TAKE COHORS, RIGHTFULLY MINE, BY FORCE IF NECESSARY



BUT IT IS WELL KNOWN, SIRE, THAT COHORS IS AN IMPREGNABLE FORTRESS AND CAN NEVER BE TAKEN.

HENRY CHANGED THE SUBJECT ABRUPTLY



CHCOT, I SHOULD LIKE TO HAVE YOU ACCOMPANY ME ON A HUNT TOMORROW



BUT I DO NOT HUNT, SIRE. IF YOUR MAJESTY WILL EXCUSE ME

COME NOW, CHCOT, YOU WILL NOT DENY ME THE PRESENCE OF YOUR COMPANY ON THIS MOMENTOUS OCCASION. YOU WILL COME AND ENJOY IT, I PROMISE YOU THAT



BUT WHAT ANIMALS DO YOU HUNT, SIRE?

WE ARE A PEACEFUL PEOPLE, MY FRIEND, BUT WE ARE ADEPT AT HUNTING THE VICIOUS WOLVES THAT PROWL AROUND US. COME AND YOU SHALL SEE

CHCOT SEIZED SOMETHING SWIFTER BEHIND THE KING'S WORDS, BUT KNOWING IT WOULD BE USELESS TO REFUSE, HE ACCEPTED HENRY'S INVITATION

THE FOLLOWING MORNING AT DAWN, KING HENRY OF NAVARRE, ACCOMPANIED BY CHICOT AND ABOUT FIFTEEN ARMED MEN, RODE LEISURELY DOWN THE ROAD LEADING AWAY FROM NERAG. . .



ABOUT AN HOUR LATER...

WHO ARE THOSE OTHER HORSEMEN COMING TOWARD US, YOUR MAJESTY?

THEY HAVE COME TO JOIN US IN THE HUNT



I WILL TAKE AN OATH THAT THE KING IS PLANNING SOMETHING BIGGER THAN JUST A HUNT.



AT FREQUENT INTERVALS, THE WOULD-BE HUNTERS WERE JOINED BY NEW AND LARGER GROUPS, SOME ARMED WITH MUSKETS, BRINGING UP THE REAR CAME A CONTINGENT OF ARTILLERY.

WE ARE HEARING COHORS WITH AN ARMY OF A THOUSAND FOOT SOLDIERS AND TWO THOUSAND CAVALRY



MY WORST FEARS HAVE INDEED BEEN REALIZED I AM ABOUT TO WITNESS THE SEIGE OF COHORS



THE MARCH WAS HALTED AND KING HENRY CONFERRED WITH ONE OF HIS OFFICERS.

MORNEY, HOW MANY MORE MEN ARE EXPECTED?

TWO THOUSAND MORE, SIRE



THE FORTY-FIVE GUARDSMEN

FIVE THOUSAND IN ALL. IN A REGULAR SIEGE, WE SHALL LOSE A THOUSAND OR FIFTEEN HUNDRED MEN IN TWO MONTHS. LET US SACRIFICE FIVE HUNDRED NOW AND TAKE CONORS.

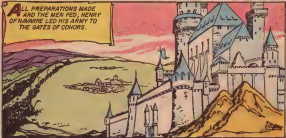
HOW SHALL WE ACCOMPLISH THIS, YOUR MAJESTY?

WE WILL GO TO THE NEAREST GATE, FILL THE DITCHES BEFORE THE GATE WITH FASCINES*, BLOW UP THE GATE WITH EXPLOSIVES AND ENTER.



*Bundles of sticks

ALL PREPARATIONS MADE AND THE MEN FED, HENRY OF NAMURE LED HIS ARMY TO THE GATES OF CONORS.



THEY WERE MET BY CANNON FIRE AND MUSKET SHOTS FROM BEHIND THE GATES.

WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THIS MUSIC, SIRE?

WE SHALL PLAY OUR OWN TUNE, CHEER LISTEN.





HENRY'S MEN FILLED THE DITCHES BEFORE ONE OF THE GATES



WHEN CROSSING OVER, THEY PLANTED EXPLOSIVES BENEATH THE GATE





LED BY THEIR KING, THE MEN SWARMED THROUGH THE NOW OPEN GATE.

TO THE ATTACK, MEN!



THEY WERE MET BY THE DEFENDERS BEYOND THE GATE AND THE BATTLE RAGED FURIOUSLY.



ON THE FIFTH DAY, HENRY WAS THROWN BY HIS HORSE AND ATTACKED BY FOUR OF THE ENEMY.

THAT IS UNFAIR COMPETITION EVEN FOR A KING. I MUST GO TO HIS ASSISTANCE.



THE DEFENDERS OF CONORS FOUGHT GALLANTLY FOR FOUR DAYS AND FOUR NIGHTS, BUT THE CLEVER TACTICS OF HENRY OF NORMANDE HAD CAUGHT THEM COMPLETELY BY SURPRISE AND THEY WERE FORCED TO RETREAT TO THEIR STRONGHOLDS.



DISMOUNTING, CHICOT SPRANG TO THE RESCUE OF THE FALLEN MONARCH AND PUT THE ENEMY TO ROUT.

MY MASTER WOULD NOT APPROVE MY TAKING UP ARMS AGAINST HIS SON, DIERS, SIRE, AND I TRUST HE SHALL NOT HEAR OF THIS.



CHICOT, YOU ARE MINE. YOU SHALL LIVE AND DIE WITH ME. MY SERVICE IS AS GOOD AS MY HEART.

I HAVE BUT ONE SERVICE TO FOLLOW, YOUR MAJESTY, AND THAT IS OF MY KING. ALAS, HIS STAR IS SETTING. ALLOW ME, THEN, TO SERVE AND LOVE MY KING AS HE NEEDS ME.

YOU ARE DEAR AND SACRED TO ME, CHICOT, AND AFTER HENRY OF FRANCE, YOU SHALL HAVE HENRY OF NAVARRE AS A FRIEND.



THE GAR-
RISON WAS
FINALLY OVER-
COME AND THE
ENEMY SUR-
RENDERED.
HENRY RE-
CEIVED THE
DEFENDING
COMMANDER'S
SWORD AS A
TOKEN OF
DEFEAT
AND CONORS
WAS HIS BY
RIGHT OF
CONQUEST.



LATER, HENRY LED
CHICOT INTO A STILL
SMOULDERING HOUSE

COME, CHICOT,
I WISH TO GIVE
YOU A MESSAGE
FOR YOUR
KING



HENRY DICTATED THE LETTER TO MORMAY. . .

... AND YOU MUST KNOW, MY DEAR BROTHER-IN-LAW,
THAT WHAT YOU WROTE TO ME HAS BEEN VERY USE-
FULL. CHICOT WILL TELL YOU THE REST



**HURRY TO FRANCE,
MY FRIEND, WHERE
YOU WILL MAKE A
SUCCESS AT COURT
BY NARRATING WHAT
YOU HAVE SEEN
FAREWELL, CHICOT**



AT ABOUT THE TIME THE FOREGOING EVENTS TOOK PLACE, THE ARMIES OF THE DUC D'BRANVOU WERE ENCAMPIED BEFORE ANTWERP, OCCUPYING BOTH SIDES OF THE RIVER SCHELD.



LOOK, YOUR HIGHNESS, A FLEET OF BOATS, COMING DOWN THE RIVER!



AND WELCOME THEY ARE, TOO. IT IS THE FLEET OF FRANCE COME TO OUR ASSISTANCE.



MAJESTICALLY THE FRENCH FLEET COMMANDED BY JOYEUSE SAILED UP THE RIVER AND DROPPED ANCHOR IN MID-STREAM.

SEVERAL HOURS LATER, JOYEUSE JOINED D'ARNOU IN A COUNCIL OF WAR. . .

YOU HAVE EIGHT VESSELS, NOT COUNTING THE ADMIRAL'S GALLEY

YES, NINE OF FRANCE'S BEST FIGHTING SHIPS.

MY PLAN IS TO HAVE YOUR FLEET FORCE THE LINE, AS THE ANTWERPERS HAVE ONLY MERCHANT SHIPS IN PORT. YOU WILL SHELL THE FORTS AND LAND YOUR FIFTEEN HUNDRED MARINES. MEANWHILE, I WILL ATTACK WITH TWO ARMIES OF FOOT SOLDIERS, WHILE THE CAVALRY WILL REMAIN IN RESERVE.



AND IF ALL THREE ATTACKING COLUMNS ARE DRIVEN BACK?

IN THAT EVENT, THE FLEET WILL SUPPLY THE FORCE THAT WILL CRUSH THE ENEMY.

GOOD LUCK, JOYEUSE. WITH YOUR GALLANT MARINES AND THE FIGHTING HEARTS OF THE FRENCH ARMY, WE CANNOT FAIL TO ACHIEVE FINAL VICTORY.



MEANWHILE, THE FLEMISH DEFENDERS OF ANTWERP MADE PREPARATIONS TO DEFEND THE CITY. ARMED MEN BOTH ON FOOT AND ON HORSEBACK, PATROLLED THE STREET



OTHERS BARRICADED THEIR HOMES



PREPARATIONS COMPLETED, WILLIAM, PRINCE OF ORANGE, THE FLEMISH COMMANDER, ENTERED THE TOWN AND PROCEEDED TO THE HOTEL DE VILLE...



AT THE HOTEL...



HAVE WE ANY NEWS AS TO THE ENEMY'S INTENTIONS, GENTLEMEN?



YES, YOUR HIGHNESS, WE HAVE JUST RECEIVED WORD BY COURIER.



OUR ENEMY IS ABOUT TO ATTACK.



MY DECISION IS MADE, GENTLEMEN. WE SHALL NOT WAIT FOR D'ANJOU TO ATTACK. WE WILL ATTACK FIRST.

BUT THE FRENCH FLEET, YOUR HIGHNESS! HOW ARE WE TO MEET THE ATTACK FROM THE RIVER?

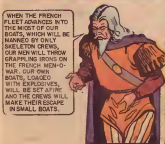


WE HAVE SIX OLD VESSELS AND THIRTY BARKS AT SAINTE MARIE, WHICH IS ABOUT A LEAGUE OFF. THEY ARE CHAINED TOGETHER, FORMING A BARRIER TO THE RIVER.



DO YOU THINK YOU CAN DESTROY THE FRENCH FLEET WITH THOSE?

HERE IS MY PLAN.



WHEN THE FRENCH FLEET ADVANCES INTO THE MOUTH OF OUR BOATS, WHICH WILL BE MANNED BY ONLY SKELETON CREWS, OUR MEN WILL THROW GRAPPLING IRONS ON THE FRENCH MEN-O-WAR. OUR OWN BOATS, LOADED WITH EXPLOSIVES, WILL BE SET AFIRE AND THE CREWS WILL MAKE THEIR ESCAPE IN SMALL BOATS.



GOOD HEAVENS! THE FRENCH WILL BE COMPLETELY DESTROYED BY FIRE!

AND THAT IS NOT ALL, GENTLEMEN. WHEN THE SURVIVORS TRY TO RETREAT BY LAND, WE SHALL OPEN THE DYKES IN THE SURROUNDING COUNTRYSIDE AND THEY WILL PERISH IN THE FLOOD!



WHAT AN INGENUOUS PLAN!

WE WILL SURELY DEFEAT THE FRENCH!



AT THAT MOMENT, A MESSENGER APPEARED AT THE DOOR . . .

THE FRENCH ARE ON THE MARCH, YOUR HIGHNESS!

TO ARMS, GENTLEMEN!



THE FLEMISH SET FORTH IMMEDIATELY TO MEET THE ENEMY.



EVEN AS THE PRINCE OF GRANGE AND HIS ARMY ADVANCED TO MEET THE INVADERS, D'ARLON LED HIS MEN IN A FURIOUS ON-SLAUGHT AGAINST THE GATES OF ANTWERP.



SUDDENLY, THE GATES WERE THROWN OPEN AND THE FLEMISH RUSHED OUT TO MEET THEIR ATTACKERS...



THE FIGHTING CONTINUED FURIOUSLY, NO QUARTER BEING ASKED OR GIVEN...



MEANWHILE, THE FRENCH FLEET OPENED FIRE ON THE CITY...



UNAWARE OF THE SURPRISE IN STORE FOR HIM, JOYEUSE LED HIS FLEET INTO THE FLEMISH BARRER OF BOATS WHICH, BEING CHAINED TOGETHER, CLOSED IN ON BOTH SIDES OF THE FRENCH FLEET...

WHAT DO YOU MAKE OF THE SILENCE ON THE FLEMISH BOATS? CAN IT BE THEY HAVE ABANDONED THEIR VESSELS?

THEY MAY WELL HAVE DONE SO, SIR, BEING NO MATCH FOR OUR SHIPS.

KEEP HEADING INTO THEIR MOUTH. WE SHALL SOON FIND OUT.



JOYEUSE'S FLEET SAILED INTO THE BARRIER MADE BY THE CHAINED FLEMISH BOATS AND WAS SOON FLANKED ON BOTH SIDES.



WITHOUT WARNING, THE CREWS LEFT ON THE FLEMISH BOATS THREW GRAPPLING IRONS INTO THE RIGGING OF THE FRENCH VESSELS AND DREW UP ALONGSIDE.

THINKING THAT THE ENEMY WAS ABOUT TO OFFER MORTAL COMBAT, JOYEUSE ORDERED HIS MEN TO MEET THE CHALLENGE.



BOARD THEM!
BOARD THEM!

THE MARINES BOARDED THE FLEMISH VESSEL'S WITHOUT MEETING ANY OPPOSITION...

LOOK, THEY HAVE TAKEN TO THEIR BOATS! THEY HAVE ABANDONED THEIR SHIPS WITHOUT A FIGHT!



SUDDENLY, JOYEUSE WAS CONSCIOUS OF A CRACKLING SOUND COMING FROM BELOW.



FEARING THE WORST, HE LEAPED TO THE NEAREST HATCHWAY.

THE SHIP IS ABLAZE! THEY HAVE SET FIRE TO THEIR OWN SHIPS!



BACK TO YOUR OWN SHIPS!



BUT IT WAS TOO LATE TO TURN BACK. LOOKED WITH GRAPPLING IRONS TO THE BURNING FLEMISH SHIPS. THE FRENCH WARSHIPS SOON CAUGHT FIRE AND WERE ROCKED WITH TREMENDOUS EXPLOSIONS.



JOYZUSE, AMONG THOSE WHO REACHED THE SHORE SAFELY, SOON FOUND HIMSELF ENGAGED IN FIERCE COMBAT WITH THREE OF THE ENEMY SOLDIERS...



VANQUISHING THE THREE, HE URGED HIS MEN TO ATTACK...

FORWARD, MEN! FOR THE GLORY OF FRANCE AND THE KING!



ALTHOUGH GREATLY OUTNUMBERED, THE GALLANT FRENCH, BY THE FIERCE FORCE OF THEIR ATTACK, DROVE THE ENEMY BEFORE THEM AND FORCED THEM TO RETREAT...

HOWEVER, COMPLETELY EXHAUSTED FROM THEIR TREMENDOUS EFFORT, JOYEUSE WAS FORCED TO CALL A HALT AND WAS SOON JOINED BY DIANJOU AND HIS FORCES.



HOW MANY MEN DO YOU HAVE LEFT?

EIGHT HUNDRED OUT OF A FORCE OF FIFTEEN HUNDRED MARINES, YOUR HIGHNESS

MAY I MAKE THE SUGGESTION, SIR, THAT WE PROCEED TO BRUSSELS FOR SUPPLIES AND REINFORCEMENTS?

IT IS TRUE WE HAVE FRIENDS IN BRUSSELS AND THEY MAY BE OF HELP TO US. WE SHALL PROCEED THERE.



AS THEY MARCHED SLOWLY TOWARD BRUSSELS, THE DYKES AND SLICES IN THE SURROUNDING COUNTRYSIDE WERE OPENED BY THE FLEMISH.



SLOWLY, FIRST IN SMALL RIVULETS, THEN IN RUSHING TORRENTS, THE WATER SPREAD IN ALL DIRECTIONS.



IN THE MEANTIME . . .

I CANNOT UNDERSTAND WHY THE VILLAGERS HAVE SO COMPLETELY ABANDONED THEIR HOMES.



IT IS PLAIN TO SEE THAT THEY HAVE FLED THEIR HOMES BECAUSE THEY FEARED THE INVASION OF OUR ARMIES.



I CANNOT BUT THINK THAT THERE IS SOMETHING OMINOUS ABOUT THIS AWFUL SILENCE.

CALM YOUR FEARS, MY DEAR JOYEUSE, THERE IS NOTHING TO FEAR FROM SILENCE.



Suddenly . . .

LOOK THERE! WATER!



THEY HAVE OPENED THE DYKES! THEY MEAN TO DROWN US LIKE RATS!



**IN A FEW MINUTES, THE OVRUSHING
WATERS REACHED THE STAMPEDEING
REMNANTS OF THE FRENCH . . .**



**D'ANJOU
WAS SWIFT
FROM HIS
HORSE . . .**

**SAVE HIM!
SAVE THE DUC
D'ANJOU!**



**FIGHTING FOR THEIR OWN
LIVES, THE OTHERS WATCHED
WITH HORROR AS THE
BROTHER OF THEIR KING
WAS SWIFT TO HIS DEATH.**



**JOYEUSE WAS STUNNED AND
OVERCAME WITH GRIEF**



SUDDENLY . . .

**LOOK
THERE!**



AN ELEVATION IN THE GROUND AHEAD ROSE ABOVE THE RUSHING WATERS. THE MEN AND HORSES MADE THEIR WAY WEARILY TO THE HIGHER GROUND AND WERE SOON SAFE FROM THE FLOOD.



WE'VE SURVIVED FIRE AND WATER. WHAT CAN THEY HAVE IN STORE FOR US NEXT?



I THINK WE WILL HAVE NOTHING MORE TO FEAR AFTER THE WATERS REcede.

NO, NOTHING EXCEPT THE JOURNEY BACK TO PARIS, AND THE PROSPECT OF CONFRONTING HENRY THE THIRD WITH THE NEWS OF THE DEATH OF HIS BROTHER AND THE DESTRUCTION OF HIS FLEET. ALAS, THE DAYS OF HENRY'S REIGN ARE INDEED NUMBERED.



THE END

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

ALEXANDRE DUMAS

ALEXANDRE DUMAS was born at Villars-Cotterets, France, on July 24, 1802. He was not yet four years old when his father, a general in the French army, died, leaving his family with no further resources than thirty acres of land. Alexandre received the rudiments of an education from a priest and entered the office of a local lawyer. He met Adolphe de Leuven, the son of an exiled Swedish nobleman, and they became lifelong friends.

They collaborated on various pieces for the theatre which never saw the footlights.

In 1823, Dumas went to seek his fortune in Paris. He secured a position as clerk in the service of the Duke of Orleans and resumed his collaboration with Leuven in the production of melodramas. Their first effort to be produced was "La Chasse à l'Amour," Sept. 23, 1825. Four years later, the Comedie Francaise accepted and produced Dumas' "Henry the Third," the first great triumph of the romantic drama. The brilliant stagecraft of the piece attracted considerable acclaim and won him the friendship of Hugo and Vigny.

Dumas temporarily abandoned his writing at the outbreak of the revolution of 1830. Being implicated in the disturbance which attended the funeral of General Lamarque in June 1832, he alienated himself from the Orleans government. He was given to understand that his absence from France was desirable. He made a tour of Switzerland which furnished material for the first of a long series of amusing books of travel.

As a novelist, his collaboration with Auguste Maquet, beginning in 1839, was productive of a series of historical novels, his aim being to reconstruct the entire course of French history. Five years later, in 1844, with the help of Maquet, he wrote that famous "cloak and sword" romance, "The Three Musketeers." This novel became famous in England as well as in France. Before the end



of the year, Dumas had completed his second great romance, "The Count of Monte Cristo." In this, he had some assistance from Fiorentino as well as from Maquet.

There has been a good deal of controversy as to Dumas' share in the great novels that bear his name. Those in which he collaborated with Maquet are considered the best, but Maquet by himself was never able to approach them in value. The manu-

script of Dumas' novels still exist in his own handwriting and they all bear the genius of his skill as a narrator. His output was enormous and due entirely to his untiring industry and the amazing fertility of his mind. He wrote two sequels to "The Three Musketeers." In 1845, he finished "Twenty Years After," and in 1848-50, "The Vicomte de Bragelonne." Dumas' so-called Valois novels were almost as famous as the above mentioned masterpieces. His first was "La Reine Margot," published in 1845, in which Henry IV is the central figure. The history of the reign of Henry III is told in "The Forty-Five Guardsmen."

In his middle age, Dumas accumulated many debts by his heavy expenditures. He built a house at Saint Germain-en-Laye, having it constructed in the Renaissance style, with a gothic pavilion and an English park. This place soon became a rendezvous for hangers-on who helped Dumas spend his vast earnings and left him penniless. He founded the Theatre Historique where his own works were exclusively performed.

In 1858, Dumas traveled through Russia to the Caucasus. Two years later, he met Garibaldi in Sicily. He spent the next four years in Naples and then returned to Paris. After the war of 1859, he visited the battlefields and wrote his story "La Terreur Prussienne," based on what he had seen.

Dumas died on Dec. 5, 1870; in the house of his son, Alexandre, a dramatist and novelist in his own right.

JEB STUART



GENERAL J. E. B. STUART was one of the most colorful figures of the Civil War. He was a Confederate cavalry commander who outrode, outfought and outdared the best the North could put before him. Stuart wore gold spurs, a graceful cape while on the

march, and was never without a singer and banjo player named Sweeney.

At twenty-two, in 1855, J. E. B. Stuart was commissioned second lieutenant in the United States cavalry. When the Civil War came in 1861, Stuart, a Virginian, resigned from Federal Service and accepted a commission in the Confederate Army. He was soon made a brigadier general.

In the Peninsular Campaign of '62, McClellan's Federal forces were drawn up before Richmond. To plan his action, General Robert E. Lee had to know the strength of McClellan's army. Lee ordered Stuart to "make a scouting movement to the rear of the enemy on the Chickahominy. . . ." Thus, with 1,200 cavalrymen and a section of artillery, Jeb Stuart rode off toward the north.

They found McClellan's right flank and swung east, riding hard and changing through surprised Yankee picket posts. In the rear of the Northern army, they captured 165 prisoners and 260 horses and mules, and also destroyed large stores of supplies.

Stuart's raiders then made their way back to Richmond, completing the circle around McClellan without losing a single man. Lee now had a map of the army before him. Lee went on the offensive, driving McClellan back in the "Seven Days' Battles" which followed. General McClellan abandoned his dangerous position near Richmond and joined with Federal forces in northern Virginia.

It was after the battle of Antietam (Sharpsburg), that Jeb Stuart carried out his own more daring Chambersburg raid. It led him into Pennsylvania and into enemy territory.

Stuart crossed the Potomac at McCoy's Ford, then rode into Mercersburg twenty

miles beyond. Though Stuart's movements did not go unobserved, there was at first no force of Federal cavalry strong enough to check his march. His orders were to take horses and administrative hostages but there was to be no looting. The Pennsylvania farmers had never seen a gray rebel uniform and refused to believe they were soldiers of the south. A merchant in Mercersburg did not even know he was selling shoes to the enemy until they paid him in Confederate bills.

It was evening when they reached Chambersburg. They stayed the night and in the morning blew up the Army Depot, destroying 5,000 rifles plus much ammunition and stores. By now, Federal forces were alerted and heading to cut off their retreat. Stuart's escape depended on speed. He chose to ride east nearly to Gettysburg and then south into Maryland at Emmitsburg.

To the west of him, the countryside was swarming with blue uniforms. A Federal cavalry force under Pleasonton was on the move to intercept him near Poolsville. Pleasonton sighted the column of Stuart's cavalry. But in the crisp autumn morning the rebels were wearing blue overcoats captured at Chambersburg and Pleasonton mistook them for Federal troops. The two columns came toward each other. Pleasonton's advance guard waved a friendly hand at the other column. Suddenly, Stuart's men drew sabres, gave rebel yells, and charged. Pleasonton's men scattered. Stuart rode south, a hornet's nest of blue behind him. But his column soon reached Virginia and safety.

The Chambersburg raid is one of the most remarkable cavalry missions ever carried out. It consisted of 1,800 mounted men, with four guns. During the three day raid, Stuart's losses were one wounded, two missing. His gain was 1,200 captured horses and valuable information.

Jeb Stuart went on to serve with his usual daring and skill at Chancellorsville, Fleetwood Heights, Gettysburg. But to a general who exposes himself so recklessly, if bravely, there comes a time of reckoning. It came during the Wilderness Campaign in the spring of '64. At Yellow Tavern, General J. E. B. Stuart was killed in battle. He was sorely missed by the Confederacy and Lee never again could find a cavalry leader whose raids were so successful as Jeb Stuart's.

THE SEMINOLE WAR

IN 1833, CIVILIZATION was again crowding the red man. Reluctant Seminole chiefs had been persuaded to come to Fort King (Orlando), Florida, to negotiate a treaty. By this treaty, the Indians would leave Florida and emigrate to reservations in Arkansas.

Ever since Florida had become a state in 1821, tension had been mounting between the whites and red men. The Seminoles lived, farmed, and hunted on the land; but with more settlers coming into Florida, someone had to give way.

So the two sides met; agents for the United States Government and the Seminoles. The government agent, General Wiley Thompson, called upon each chief to sign the treaty.

Eight chiefs came to the table and made their mark. The others stood back, stern and silent. Their names were called. Micanopy, Jupiter, Sam Jones, Alligator, Mink-suk, Finally, Osceola was called. He was no chief, but a young brave whose natural ability made him a tribal leader.

Osceola stalked to the table. "This land is ours, we want no agent," he cried. Stabbing the paper with his knife, he added, "This is the only treaty I will ever make with the whites!"

Osceola was seized and thrown into the guard house. He still refused to sign the treaty. Finally, he was released. The Seminoles were given until January, 1836, to make ready to leave Florida. Instead of gathering to be shipped west, they drifted back into the Everglades.

Then in December, war came swiftly. General Thompson, his aide, Major Dade and over 100 men were ambushed and killed. Settlers left their homes and sought refuge in towns and forts.

There were some 4,000 Indians. Opposing and outnumbering them were state and federal troops.

After two commanders proved incompetent, General Thomas Jesup took over the federal forces. For two years, skirmishes were won and lost by both sides. Osceola led his warriors brilliantly. Still, many Seminoles were captured and sent West.

Then in June, 1837, the Indians seemed to be tiring and 700 of them came peacefully to Tampa. It looked as though the war might end. But Osceola persuaded his people to fight on. Under

cover of darkness, the Seminoles slipped back into the wilderness.

Shortly, however, the Seminole leaders had another change of heart and they traveled to St. Augustine to make terms. General Jesup believed they were only stalling. He ordered the Indians seized. Thus the great warrior, Osceola, was taken prisoner.

Osceola was sent to prison in South Carolina where he soon died, lonely and sick at heart. Though Osceola's loss was deeply felt by the Seminoles, they fought on bravely.

On Christmas Day, 1837, the biggest battle of the war took place. Near Lake Okechobee, Colonel Zachary Taylor, with 1000 men, met a large force of Indians. Though they suffered the heavier casualties, the battle was rated as a victory for federal forces. This battle proved to the Indians that they could not fight on white man's terms. They relied on hit and run tactics for the remainder of the war.

Zachary Taylor was promoted to General and replaced Jesup. Taylor's forces systematically captured many of the foe. Still the Indians held on.

In June, 1841, the Seminole leader, Wildcat, was captured. General Worth, who had succeeded Taylor, pleaded with Wildcat to end the war. Finally, runners were sent into the swamps to call in those Indians still at large. Soon, most of the embattled Seminoles came to Tampa. The war was over. Florida was at last free to develop as the white man saw fit.

The final treaty with the Seminoles was not actually made until 1845, but not all the Seminoles were driven from Florida. About three hundred remained deep in the Everglades. It hardly seemed feasible to continue the costly struggle to round up such a small number. An agreement was reached with these remaining Indians as to what lands should be theirs, but no treaty was signed.

The descendants of these Indians still live in Florida today - descendants of a proud people who for seven long years made a heroic defense against the best armies sent against them. Technically, they are still at war with the United States.



WHO AM I?

I am a famous literary character. Can you guess my name from the clues below? Rate your familiarity with me as follows. If you can identify me from CLUE I, your score is superior; from CLUE II—excellent; from CLUE III—very good; from CLUE IV—good; from CLUE V—fair. If after CLUE V you still cannot identify me, I suggest you read the exciting story in which I appear.

CLUE I: I was a famous general and statesman who played a major part in forming the empire that was Ancient Rome.

CLUE II: There were many Romans who were jealous and fearful of my political strength and sought means to bring about my downfall.

CLUE III: Among those I did not trust was Cassius, a man with a "lean and hungry look." Events were to prove that he was the chief conspirator against me.

CLUE IV: I was warned to "Beware the Ides of March", but even the warning of the Roman prophets could not make a coward of me. According to my usual custom, I went to the Senate on that fateful day.

CLUE V: There I was slain by the conspirators, among them my life-long friend, Brutus. As a result of my death, a great and exciting struggle ensued between my loyal followers and my murderers. The suspense-filled account of the conspiracy and its final outcome can be found in William Shakespeare's famous play which bears my name.

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