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**WITH
FIRE
AND
SWORD**

Henryk Sienkiewicz



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WHO AM I?

I am a famous literary character. Can you guess my name from the clues below? Note 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 born in Troy Grove, a little town on the Illinois border. When I was about eleven years old, I found out my father was running an underground railway helping slaves to escape.

CLUE II: When I was seventeen, I got a job helping to build the Illinois-Michigan Canal. Here I had my first real fight, with a bully named Hudson, I thought I killed him.

CLUE III: That night, I headed West, where I joined a ranger outfit called the Redlegs. We fought a pro-slavery group called the Border Ruffians.

CLUE IV: My luck had been good so far. I was still alive, after many dangerous encounters with the Ruffians, Indians and outlaws. But one winter I was almost killed by a bear. In a couple of months, though, I was up and around and went to Rock Creek station for a rest. There I had trouble with Dave McCanness. One day, he and his gang came around making trouble. We fought and I killed him.

CLUE V: I had many exciting adventures. I eventually became a frontier marshal. I am a famous character in the history of the American West and there are many exciting biographies of my life.

WHO AM I?

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WITH FIRE AND SWORD

Henryk Sienkiewicz



MORE THAN THREE HUNDRED YEARS AGO, POLAND WAS A VAST POWER STRETCHING FROM THE BALTIC SEA TO THE BLACK SEA. THIS AREA INCLUDED THE UKRAINE, HOME OF THE FERCE, DARING CAVALRY--THE COSSACKS.

THE YEAR 1647 IN POLAND WAS A YEAR IN WHICH THERE WERE STRANGE SIGNS IN THE HEAVENS AND ON THE EARTH. FIRST THERE WAS A GREAT ECLIPSE OF THE SUN, AND SOON AFTER A COMET APPEARED IN THE SKY. IN WARSAW A TOMB WAS SEEN OVER THE CITY AND A FIERY CROSS IN THE CLOUDS. WOLVES AND WAMPYRES HOWLED IN THE NIGHT AND WHOLE LEGIONS OF GHOSTS MARCHED. THESE WERE BELIEVED TO BE SIGNS A GREAT WAR WAS COMING.

ONE NIGHT IN THAT STRANGE WINTER, AN ENEMY OF PRINCE YEREMI, ONE OF THE MOST POWERFUL OF THE POLISH NOBLES, WAS CROSSING THE UKRAINIAN PRAIRIE LAND CALLED THE STEPPES WHEN

HELP!
SAVE ME!

SOMEONE IS BEING
ATTACKED! QUICKLY,
FOLLOW ME!



THE REPORT OF MUSKETS ECHOED. THERE WAS A CLASH OF STEEL.

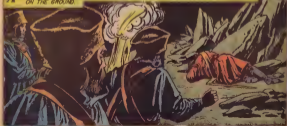


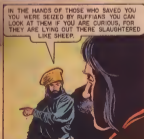
THEN ALL WAS SILENT.
THE STRUGGLE WAS OVER.

HERE!
STRIKE
A FIRE!



A BLAZE FLASHED UP, SHOWING THE FORM OF A MAN STRETCHED MOTIONLESS ON THE GROUND.







THE NEXT MORNING, THE ENVOY, LIEUTENANT VAN SKISHTUSKI, REACHED CHIGIRIN, WHERE HE IMMEDIATELY SOUGHT OUT SOME OLD FRIENDS

AH, MICHAEL, LONGIN, ZASLOBA! WHAT HAS HAPPENED SINCE I HAVE BEEN AWAY?



WELL, HMELNITSKI HAS FLED FROM CHIGIRIN. EVERYONE IS TALKING ABOUT IT



WHO IS THIS HMELNITSKI?

HE IS A SOLDIER WITH A HEAVY HAND AND A MIGHTY MIND. ALL THE COSSACKS OBEY HIM.



AND WHAT MADE HIM FLEE?

A PERSONAL QUARREL WITH A POLISH NOBLE. ALSO, IT IS SAID THAT HE STOLE SOME LETTERS WHICH URGE THE COSSACKS TO RESIST THE POLES. THERE IS DANGER THAT OUT OF THIS A REBELLION MAY ARISE.



AND I FREED HIM LAST NIGHT FROM A LARIAT!



WHAT DO YOU SAY?

IT IS TRUE. HE IS PROBABLY NOW WELL ON HIS WAY TO STIR UP THE PEOPLE.



WHO WILL FOLLOW HIM?

COSSACKS, PEOPLE OF THE TOWNS, THE MOB AND PEASANTS LOOK OUT THERE.



THESE MEN ARE ALL INCLINED TO PLUNDER AND ACCUSTOMED TO VIOLENCE. A BREATH IS SUFFICIENT TO SET THEM OFF.



I MUST GO TO PRINCE YEREMI AT LUBNI AND TELL HIM OF THIS.



WINTER PASSED INTO THE SPRING OF 1648 OVER THE WHOLE UKRAINE THERE WERE WHISPERS OF A GREAT WAR COMING AT LUBIN, PRINCE YEREMJ CALLED YAN TO HIM.

I HAVE RECEIVED WORD HMELNITSKI IS GATHERING AN ARMY ON HORSE AND FOOT. I THINK A STORM WILL COME UPON US.



IT IS FURTHER SAID THAT HMELNITSKI HAS GONE TO THE CRIMEA TO ASK ASSISTANCE OF THE TARTARS. IF HE COMES WITH TARTAR AID, THEN GOD SAVE US FROM RUIN.



GO ON A MISSION FOR ME TO THE COSSACKS I WILL GIVE YOU A LETTER TO ONE OF THEIR CHIEFS, BUT IT IS ONLY A PRETEXT.



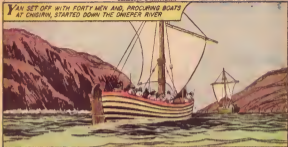
THE WHOLE MEANING OF THE MISSION LIES IN YOUR OWN MIND YOU ARE TO SEE EVERYTHING THAT IS BEING DONE—WHAT TROOPS THEY HAVE ASSEMBLED AND WHETHER THEY ARE ASSEMBLING MORE. FIND OUT ALL YOU CAN ABOUT HMELNITSKI.



BE FEARLESS, KEEP YOUR EYES AND EARS OPEN AND COME BACK HERE IF YOU SURVIVE, FOR THE EXPEDITION IS NO EASY ONE.



YAN SET OFF WITH FORTY MEN AND, PROCURING BOATS AT CHIGIRIK, STARTED DOWN THE DNEPER RIVER



AFTER SEVERAL DAYS THEY REACHED THE ISLAND OF HORTITSA.



ALL WAS QUIET UNTIL NEARLY DAYBREAK. THEN



ROUSE THE MEN!
STIR THE FIRE!



YAN'S MEN SPRANG TO THEIR FEET AT ONCE



A MOB OF WILD AND SAVAGE TARTARS
CAME INTO THE LIGHT.

WHO ARE
YOU?

I'M ENVOY OF
—SINCE YEREMI!



WE HAVE ORDERS
THAT NO ONE
FROM THE POLES
MAY APPROACH.

DO YOU KNOW,
RUFFIAN,
THAT THE
PERSON OF
AN ENVOY
MUST ALWAYS
BE RESPECTED?



DESTRUCTION
TO YOU!



THE MOB SURGED FORWARD TO ATTACK

KILL! KILL!



YAN'S MEN HURRIED TO HIS RESCUE.



SOON MORE TARTARS WERE HEARD APPROACHING.



THE ENEMY CONTINUED THEIR ATTACK FROM A DISTANCE.



WE CANNOT HOLD OUT, THE CROWD IS TOO GREAT.

THEN WE WILL DIE TO THE LAST MAN!



BULLETS BEGAN TO FALL LIKE HAIL ON YAN'S MEN.



THEN, WITH A TERRIBLE CRY, HUNDREDS OF TARTARS ATTACKED.



THE POLES WENT DOWN BEFORE THEM TILL ONLY A FEW REMAINED.



THEN YAN TOTTERED AND FELL, AND THE HORDE COVERED THE BOATS COMPLETELY.



SEVERAL DAYS LATER, HMELNITSKI SAT IN COUNCIL WITH TUGAI BEY, A LEADER OF THE TARTARS, WHOM HMELNITSKI HAD PERSUADED TO BE HIS ALLIES.



WITH FIRE AND SWORD

AMELANTSKI TURNED TO TUSH BEY

HE IS YOUR PRISONER,
FOR THE TARTARS
TOOK HIM. WILL YOU
LET HIM BE TAKEN
FROM YOU?

BE OFF,
DOGS!

YOU BARK
TO ESCAPE
DEATH, BUT
YOU WON'T

DESTRUCTION
TO THE POLE!
LET US
HAVE HIM!

**THE COSSACKS LEFT THEN**

I WILL GIVE YOU
3,000 THALERS
FOR THE POLE

WHY?

HE SAVED MY
LIFE ONCE.

ALLAH! THAT IS WORTH
A THOUSAND MORE!



THE TRANSACTION WAS SOON MADE AND YAN AND HMELNITSKI WERE LEFT ALONE.

WELL, LIEUTENANT, YOU SAVED MY LIFE; I HAVE DONE THE SAME FOR YOU NOW WE ARE EVEN. BUT I WILL NOT LET YOU GO UNLESS YOU GIVE ME YOUR WORD THAT WHEN YOU RETURN HOME YOU WILL SAY NOTHING OF WHAT YOU HAVE SEEN HERE.



I WILL NOT GIVE SUCH A WORD, FOR BY SO GOING I WOULD BE NO BETTER THAN A TRAITOR TO PRINCE YEREMI.



THEN I MUST DETAIN YOU FOR A TIME. IT IS IMPORTANT THAT THE POLES NOT KNOW THE EXTENT OF OUR POWER.



THEY WERE INTERRUPTED BY THE APPEARANCE OF A MESSENGER

WHAT IS IT?



POLISH NOBLE POTOTSKI SENDS HIS SON STEPHEN WITH HIS ARMY AGAINST US. WAR!



WAR IT IS! WE MARCH AT DAYBREAK TOMORROW



THEN FOR THE SAKE OF YOUR PRIVATE SQUABBLERS WITH THE POLISH NOBLES YOU WILL KINDLE THE FLAME OF CIVIL WAR AND SHED A SEA OF HUMAN BLOOD?

I HAVE NOT RISEN TO AVENGE PRIVATE WRONGS ALONE.



LOOK AROUND AT WHAT IS GOING ON IN THE UKRAINE. THE POLISH KING IS GOOD, BUT THE POLISH NOBLES MAKE IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR US TO LIVE WITH THEIR RENTS AND THEIR TAXES AND THEIR TYRANNY.



WHERE ARE THE COSSACK RIGHTS? THE KING SAVED THEM, THE NOBLES TOOK THEM AWAY. LET THE WILL OF GOD BE DONE. I WILL TAKE THE BURDEN ON MY SHOULDERS.



ARE YOU ABLE TO SAY THAT AMONG YOURS THERE ARE ONLY JUST MEN? THE COSSACKS HAVE THEMSELVES BETRAYED THEIR RIGHTS. THEY HAVE LOOTED AND ROBBERED AND KILLED. LET GOD JUDGE THE NOBLES IN HEAVEN, NOT YOU ON EARTH.



DO NOT PUT YOUR SWORD TO THE THROAT OF POLAND.



I GO TO FREE THE COSSACKS FROM POLISH BONDS. TOMORROW WE MARCH.



EARLY THE NEXT MORNING, KHELITSKI AND TUGAI BEY MARCHED WITH THE COSSACKS AND THE TARTARS. THOUGH BLOOD HAD NOT YET STAINED THE STEPPES, THE WAR HAD BEGUN.



IN ONE OF THE COSSACK WAGONS LAY YAN, SERIOUSLY ILL FROM FEVER AND LOSS OF BLOOD.

WHERE AM I? WHAT?

LIE DOWN OR I WILL HAVE TO BIND YOU.



SEVERAL DAYS LATER, YAN RECEIVED NEWS.

POTOTSKI'S ADVANCE ARMY HAS DESERTED TO THE COSSACK CAUSE. NOW WE HAVE 25,000 MEN TO POTOTSKI'S 2,000.



FINALLY THE TWO ARMIES STOOD FACE TO FACE. YAN WATCHED FROM A COSSACK RAMPART

HAVE WE SO FEW?



A DRUM SOUNDED AND A GIANTIC
CRESCENT OF COSSACKS AND
TARTARS RUSHED FORWARD.



SPEARS LEVELED, THE POLISH HUSSARS
CHARGED TO MEET THEM.



THE MOMENTUM OF THE HUSSARS
WAS TERRIBLE.



HMELNITSKI'S FORCES WERE
BEATEN BACK.



BUT THE BATTLE DID NOT LAST LONG BECAUSE OF THE VIOLENCE OF THE RAIN. HEAVEN ITSELF PUT AN END TO THE SLAUGHTER.



GRADUALLY THE POLISH REGIMENTS WERE FORCED BACK TO THEIR ENTRENCHMENTS.

THE GROUND IS SO SOFT FROM THE RAIN THAT OUR HEAVY CAVALRY CAN SCARCELY MOVE.



THE NEXT DAY WAS SUNDAY AND NOT A SHOT WAS FIRED. ON MONDAY, THE BATTLE BEGAN AT DAYBREAK.

TODAY IT WILL BE DIFFERENT, YOUR POLES CANNOT HOLD OUT AGAINST OUR GREATER NUMBERS.



HMELNITSKI'S MEN SWARMED OVER THE SLENDER LINE AND STORMED THE BREASTWORKS.



THEN

ALL-POWERFUL GOD! IT IS HMELNITSKI'S CRIMSON FLAG! THE POLISH CAMP IS CAPTURED!



AT DAYBREAK AFTER THIS VICTORY, HMELNITSKI MARCHED ON. THE COSSACK FORCES INCREASED ON THE ROAD, FOR NEW CROWDS OF PEASANTS JOINED THEM CONTINUALLY. THEY MOVED ON LIKE AN AVALANCHE, DESTROYING EVERYTHING IN THEIR PATH. THE COUNTRY WAS ON FIRE.



THEN ONE DAY HMELNITSKI CALLED YAN TO HIM.

THE HOUR OF YOUR FREEDOM HAS COME. YOU MAY RETURN TO PRINCE YEREM. I WILL GIVE YOU A WAGON AND FORTY MEN TO CONDUCT YOU THERE SAFELY.



YAN WAS REUNITED WITH THE PRINCE.

I GREET YOU AS A SON, FOR I THOUGHT I SHOULD NEVER SEE YOU AGAIN. WE GO TO MARCH AGAINST THE REBEL HMELNITSKI AND CRUSH THIS INSURRECTION.

HE IS INCREASING IN POWER AT EVERY MOMENT. ONLY YOU CAN DEFEAT HIM.



AGAINST THE HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS IN HMELNITSKI'S FORGES, YEREM MARCHED WITH 6,000 MEN.

I WILL NOT LAY DOWN MY SABRE UNTIL I GIVE PEACE TO THE UKRAINE AND CROWN THIS INSURRECTION IN BLOOD.



YEREM'S ARMY ENTERED IMMENSE, GLOOMY FORESTS

IT IS HOT FOR THE END OF MAY.

YES, I CAN SCARCELY BREATHE IT IS UNNATURAL



I SEIZED SOME MEN WHO CONFESSED HMELNITSKI HAD SENT THEM TO FOLLOW US AND SET THE WOODS AFIRE IF THE WIND SHOULD BE FAVORABLE.



HE WANTS TO ROAST US ALIVE WITHOUT GIVING BATTLE. WELL, HE WILL NOT STOP US



IN THE MIST OF BURNING FORESTS AND DENSE SMOKE, YEREM LED HIS ARMY ON.



THEN ONE DAY HE RECEIVED A MESSAGE.

THE KING IS DEAD!

AWFUL TIMES HAVE COME UPON THE COMMONWEALTH OF POLAND NOW WHEN THE WHOLE PEOPLE SHOULD BECOME A SINGLE SWORD IN A SINGLE HAND, WE WILL HAVE DISSIDENTIONS AND ELECTIONS.



WE WILL NEED A WARRIOR KING. I WILL VOTE FOR PRINCE KARL, WHO IS MORE OF A MILITARY MAN THAN PRINCE KAZIMIR.



YEREM'S MEN CONTINUED THEIR MARCH UNTIL THEY REACHED THE REGION OF REVDLY.

YEREM IS COMING!



THEN THE ARMY LAY DOWN ON THE THRESHOLD OF THE REBELLIOUS LAND AND RESTED. THE LADY WAS GATHERING HIS STRENGTH.



HAMELNTSKI GOT WORD OF YEREMI'S PRESENCE

THE POLISH NOBLES ARE MARCHING AND MAY CRUSH US NOW I WILL NEGOTIATE WITH THE GOVERNMENT I THINK IT WOULD RATHER MAKE HUGE CONCESSIONS TO US THAN ENTER A LONG AND COSTLY WAR



HOWEVER, THOSE OF YOU WHO WISH WAR MAY HAVE IT OUR GREATEST ENEMY YEREMI IS NEAR, I ASK SOME OF YOU TO GO AGAINST HIM OF YOUR OWN WILL.



I, KRIVONOS, WILL GO

GLORY TO YOU!



THAT EVENING, KRIVONOS MARCHED OUT OF THE CAMP AT THE HEAD OF 60,000 MEN



**NEWS OF THIS SOON
REACHED YEREMI**

KRIVOMOS IS MARCHING
AGAINST US. WE WILL
MOVE IN AN HOUR.



**WHEN THE TWO ARMIES MET, A FIERCE GOSSACK
NAMED BURDABUT LED THE ATTACK.**

HE IS A
WIZARD!

NO MAN
CAN
HARM HIM!



**BURDABUT SAW YAN AND
RUSHED UPON HIM**



**YAN PUSHED ON HIS
ENEMY WITH FURY**



**WITH A BLOW OF HIS
SWORD HE SHATTERED
BURDABUT'S SABRE**



BUT BURDABUT SEIZED A KNIFE AND
THREW HIMSELF AT YAN



YAN SEIZED THE HAND OF HIS ENEMY
AND SQUEEZED THE KNIFE FROM
HIS GRIP



THEN YAN SLEW HIM



AT THE SIGHT OF THIS, THE POLES
RUSHED AT THE COSSACKS WITH
RENEWED FURY AND DROVE THEM BACK



AMONG THOSE IN PURSUIT OF THE COSSACKS WAS VAN'S FRIEND, ZAGLOBA.



THEY ARE FLEEING,
THE SCOUNDRELS!

SUDDENLY HE FELT SOMETHING COVER
HIS WHOLE HEAD.



WHAT IS THIS?
OH, SAVE ME!

LET ME GO, YOU
SCOUNDREL! I'LL
SPARE YOUR LIFE



GETTING NO RESPONSE,
ZAGLOBA TORE AT
THE COVERING.



A COSSACK
BANNER!

OH! I HAVE CAPTURED
A COSSACK BANNER! I DID
NOT KNOW MYSELF THAT
I WAS SO BRAVE.



THAT EVENING WAS A JOYOUS ONE IN YEREMI'S CAMP.

SEE, THEN, GENTLEMEN, HOW I CAPTURED THE BANNER IT IS NOT THE FIRST ONE I HAVE CAPTURED, OF COURSE.



THEN YAN CAME WITH SOME NEWS

I AM TO GO ON A MISSION FOR THE PRINCE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE MOVEMENTS OF OUR ENEMIES.



WELL, YOU CAN LEARN FROM ME HOW TO CAPTURE BANNERS, IF YOU LIKE.



WHEN DO YOU LEAVE?

TOMORROW, AND IN GOOD COMPANY WITH ME GO ZAGLOBA, LONGIN AND MICHAEL, HERE.



LONGIN WIELDS HIS SWORD LIKE AN AVENGING ANGEL, MICHAEL FIGHTS LIKE A DEVIL, AND WE ALL KNOW HOW BRAVE ZAGLOBA IS.



THE FOUR SET OFF WITH SOME TROOPS
AND IT WAS NOT UNTIL SEVERAL WEEKS
LATER THAT THEY GOT NEWS OF
YEREMI'S FORCES

IT IS ALL
OVER
ALL OVER!



ALL OVER WITH
HMELNITSKI?

ALL OVER
WITH US!



DEFEAT, DISGRACE-- WITHOUT
A BATTLE THE POLISH
COMMANDERS RAN AWAY

AND PRINCE
YEREMI?

DESERTED BY
ALL, THRUST
ASIDE ON
PURPOSE BY
OTHER NOBLES
JEALOUS OF
HIS POWER

BUT HE IS THE
ONLY MAN WHO
CAN SAVE THE
FATHERLAND

YES WE WILL
RALLY TO HIM
AND, IF NEED
BE, PERISH
WITH HIM!



TIME PASSED. IN WARSAW, THE NOBLES GATHERED FOR AN ELECTION.



THEN I THINK WE SHALL SOON SEE NEGOTIATIONS WITH HMELNITSKI AND HIS REBELS. KAZIMIR IS A MAN OF PEACE AND WILLING TO GRANT CONCESSIONS TO GAIN IT.



AND PRINCE YEREMI-MOZAZ OF HIM?

HE IS A MAGNIFICENT SOLDIER, BUT TOO MILITANT. POLAND IS TIRED OF FIGHTING. IT WANTS PEACE NOW.



A N UNEASY TRUCE FOLLOWED AS BOTH ARMIES WENT INTO WINTER QUARTERS AT YEREMI'S CAMP.

WHAT SHALL WE DO NOW, YOUR HIGHNESS?

WE CAN ONLY REASSEMBLE OUR FORCES AND STAND IN READINESS FOR THE TIME WHEN OUR COUNTRY SHALL NEED US AGAIN.



THE TIME WAS NOT LONG IN COMING. THE FOLLOWING SPRING, HMELNITSKY MARCHED UPON THE POLES WITH A GIGANTIC ARMY OF COSSACKS, PEASANTS AND TARTARS. THE COMMONWEALTH DECIDED TO MAKE ITS STAND AT ZBARAJ. COMMAND OF THE ARMY WAS GIVEN TO YEREMY.



THERE WERE 15,000 POLES AGAINST AN ENDLESS HORDE-- A HANDFUL AGAINST LEGIONS.

SEE THE LIGHTS FROM HMELNITSKY'S FIRES! THEY EXTEND FARTHER THAN A HORSE COULD GO IN ONE JOURNEY.

I FEEL NO ALARM, BUT AS GOD IS DEAR TO ME, THERE ARE TOO MANY OF THEM.



I THINK TOMORROW WILL BE THE DAY OF JUDGMENT.



WELL, WE FOUR STAND TOGETHER, COME WHAT MAY.



ON THE EVENING OF JULY 13, 1649, WITH A TERRIBLE CRY, THE REBELS CHARGED



CANNON FROM THE RAMPARTS THUNDERED AND BODIES LITTERED THE GROUND, BUT STILL THE REBELS CAME ON



AT A SIGNAL FROM VERON, THE ENTIRE POLISH CAVALRY HURLED ITSELF AT THE ENEMY



YAN SOUGHT OUT TUGAY BEY AND DEALT HIM A TERRIBLE BLOW WITH HIS SWORD.



BUT A SERVANT SEIZED THE WOUNDED TARTAR LEADER AND QUICKLY CARRIED HIM AWAY.



MICHAEL AND LONGIN FLEW UP AND DOWN DEALING DEATH EVERYWHERE.



ZAGLOBA COURSED OVER THE FIELD, ROARING DEFIANCE.



BUT HIS BRAVADO TURNED TO FRIGHT WHEN HE SAW BURLAI, ONE OF THE GREATEST COSSACK WARRIORS, HEADING TOWARD HIM.



ZAGLOBA TURNED AND FLED, BUT JUST AS BURLAI OVERTOOK HIM, HIS TERROR TURNED TO RAGE.



HE STRUCK WILDLY AND THE COSSACK ROLLED FROM HIS HORSE.



WITH THIS, BURLAI'S FOLLOWERS TURNED AND FLED.



SEEN THAT A GENERAL BATTLE WAS NOT SUCCESSFUL, HMELIWITSKY INITIATED A SIEGE OF ZBARAZ.

SCOUTS HAVE COME IN SAYING THAT ALL ROADS AND ESCAPES ARE BLOCKED

HAVE WE MANY PROVISIONS STORED HERE?

NO, I DO NOT THINK SO

DAY AND NIGHT HMELIWITSKY HARASSED THE POLES WITH CONTINUAL BOMBARDMENT



TRAVELLING TOWERS SPITTING CANNON BALLS WERE ROLLED TOWARD THE POLISH ENTRENCHMENTS.

GOD GRANT THE GROUND OPEN UP UNDER THESE RUFFIANS WE CAN NEITHER EAT NOR SLEEP DOGS ARE IN A BETTER CONDITION OF LIFE THAN WE



THEN ONE DAY A TERRIBLE STORM HIT AND THE BATTLE WAS STOPPED BY IT.



ABOUT MIDNIGHT, THE RAIN SLACKENED AND YEREMI APPEARED.



GENTLEMEN, ADVANCE THROUGH THE WATER TO THOSE TOWERS AND SET FIRE TO THEM.

AH, THIS IS ALL THAT WAS WANTING. A DOG WOULDN'T GO TO A WEDDING THROUGH SUCH WATER AS THIS!



QUIET!
COME ON!

IF I FALL INTO A HOLE, PULL ME OUT BY THE EARS, FOR I SHALL FILL WITH WATER AT ONCE.



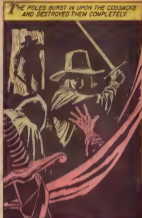
WITH SABRES DRAWN, THE PARTY WADED HAIST-DEEP THROUGH THE WATER-FILLED DITCHES TOWARD THE DARK TOWERS.



THE COSSACK GUARDS ARE
IN THOSE SHELTERS! COME!



THE POLES BURST IN UPON THE COSSACKS
AND DESTROYED THEM COMPLETELY.



NOW TO
THE TOWERS!



WE MUST SET
FIRE TO THEM
FROM WITHIN,
FOR THEY ARE
WET OUTSIDE.



THERE IS
NO WAY
TO GET
INSIDE.

TAKE AXES,
THEN, AND
CUT HOLES
IN THEM.



QUICKLY THEY PLACED BUCKETS OF TAR THROUGH THE HOLES



WITH TORCHES THEY LIT THE DRY INSIDES OF THE TOWERS



SOON GIANTIC FLAMES ILLUMINATED THE WHOLE PLAIN.



THE POLES HURRIED AWAY, SUDDENLY.

WHERE ARE MICHAEL AND LONGIN?

THEY ARE NOT WITH US.



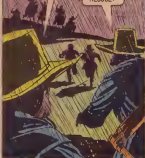
RETURN! WE MUST FIND THEM



A AT THAT MOMENT THEY APPEARED.

THE COSSACKS
ARE CHASING THEM!

THEY WILL BE
KILLED! TO THE
RESCUE!



B BUT BEFORE THE POLES COULD REACH
THEM A BOMB FELL INTO THE MIDDLE
OF THE COSSACKS.



THEY ARE FIRING
FROM OUR RAMPARTS



THE COSSACKS FLED IN TERROR AND
LEONID AND MICHAEL REJOINED
THEIR COMRADES

THOSE COSSACKS WERE
LUCKY TO RUN AWAY FROM
THE BOMBS, FOR I SHOULD
HAVE CUT THEM UP
LIKE CABBAGE



DAY FOLLOWED DAY AS THE HALF-STARVED POLES VALIANTLY DEFENDED EBARAI.

HOW MUCH LONGER CAN WE HOLD OUT?

THERE IS ALMOST NO FOOD LEFT AND OUR POWDER IS VERY LOW.



GOD GRANT THE KING WILL COME SOON WITH HELP.

BUT HOW DOES HE KNOW WHAT CONDITION WE ARE IN? WE ARE CUT OFF FROM ALL COMMUNICATION WITH HIM.



SOMEONE MUST STEAL THROUGH THE GOSSACKS AND TELL HIM. I WILL UNDERTAKE TO DO IT!



BUT IT IS CERTAIN DEATH! A MOUSE COULD NOT SQUEEZE THROUGH!

NEVERTHELESS, I WILL GO.



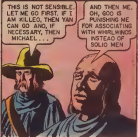
THEN I WILL GO WITH YOU!

AND I, TOO!



THIS IS NOT SENSIBLE. LET ME GO FIRST, IF I AM KILLED, THEN YOU CAN GO AND, IF NECESSARY, THEN MICHAEL...

AND THEN ME. OH, GOD IS PUNISHING ME FOR ASSOCIATING WITH WHIRLWINDS INSTEAD OF SOLID MEN.



THAT EVENING, LONGIN BID FAREWELL TO HIS COMRADES AND DROPPED OVER THE RAMPARTS

FAREWELL, BROTHERS.

GO WITH GOD!



SLOWLY LONGIN HURRIED HIS WAY TOWARD THE COSSACK CAMP



SEVERAL TIMES COSSACK PATROLS NEARLY RAN HIM DOWN

I MUST KEEP ON THE FATE OF THE WHOLE CAMP DEPENDS ON IT



FINALLY HE CAME TO SOME COSSACK WAGGONS AND CRAWLED AMONG THEM



SOON HE WAS IN OPEN TERRITORY

NOW IF I CAN REACH THAT GROVE I WILL BE SAFE



BUT AS HE STARTED ACROSS THE OPEN FIELD, SEVERAL FIGURES SPRANG FROM THE SHADOW OF A GREAT OAK



THE TARTARS RUSHED ON LONGWY WHO, WITH HIS BACK TO THE TREE, DEFENDED HIMSELF VALIANTLY



SEENING THAT THEY COULD NOT GET NEAR HIM, THE TARTARS FELL BACK AND RAISED THEIR BOWS.



ARROWS WHISTLED THROUGH THE AIR AND LONGWY SAW THAT FOR HIM IT WAS THE MOMENT OF DEATH



BACK AT THE FORT, YAN AND THE OTHERS LEARNED OF LONGIN'S DEATH.



IT IS MY TURN NOW

WHICH WAY ARE YOU GOING?

THROUGH THE POND AND THEN BY THE RIVER, I THINK IT IS THE BEST WAY



GOD ATTEND YOU, YAN IF WE DO NOT MEET IN THIS WORLD, WE SHALL IN THE OTHER



YESTERDAY, THAT ONE, TODAY, THIS ONE. MY GOD, MY GOD!



HAVE FAITH

AN HOUR LATER YAN SANK INTO THE WATER OF THE POND



IF I STAY IN THE
REEDS PERHAPS THE
GUARDS WILL
NOT SEE ME



HIS PATH LED HIM INTO
A QUAGMIRE.

THIS PLACE
IS FULL
OF CORPSES



MOSQUITOES SWARMED
OVER HIM, BITING
HIM CRUELLY.



BUT IN THE SILENCE OF THE SKY
HE FOUND PEACE

GOD IS THERE. HE
WILL HELP ME
TO GET THROUGH



SEVERAL HOURS PASSED.

I SHOULD HAVE COME TO
THE RIVER BY NOW CAN I
HAVE MISSED IT AMONG
THE REEDS?



HE PUSHED ON, THEN

A BOAT!



HE SANK INTO THE WATER UP TO HIS NECK AND WATCHED IT GO BY



THEN HE STRUGGLED ON, WEAK AND DELIRIOUS.

THE RIVER!
THERE IT IS!



YET I AM BARELY
AT THE BEGINNING OF
MY JOURNEY I MUST
REST HERE BEFORE
I GO FARTHER



**HE PULLED HIMSELF
ON A TUFT OF LAND
AMONG THE RUSHES AND
FELL ASLEEP.**



WHEN HE AWOKE IT WAS EVENING AGAIN.

I HAVE SLEPT
THE WHOLE DAY!



**HE SWAM AND WADED UNTIL HE BEHELD
THOUSANDS OF LIGHTS ON BOTH SIDES
OF THE RIVER.**

THE COSSACK CAMP
IS ON ONE SIDE AND THE
TARTARS ON THE OTHER.



THE REEDS STOP
HERE! IT IS
IMPOSSIBLE
TO PASS!



**THEN HIS EYE CAUGHT A LINE OF BOATS
TIED UP ALONG THE EDGE OF THE RIVER**

PERHAPS I CAN
CRAWL UNDER
THEIR STERNS



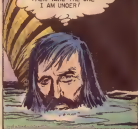
QUETLY HE SLIPPED UNDER THE BOATS AND MADE HIS WAY ALONG THE SHALLOW WATER



SUDDENLY HE HEARD THE SOUND OF FEET
RUNNING TOWARD HIM



PLEASE, GOD, DON'T LET
THEM TAKE THE ONE
I AM UNDER!



THE TARTARS LEAPED INTO A BOAT BEHIND
HIM AND ROWED AWAY.



WHEN YAN REACHED THE RUSHES ON
THE OTHER SIDE OF THE BOATS, HE
FELL UPON HIS KNEES

THANK
GOD!



HE HASTENED ON MORE BOLDLY UNTIL ...

AT LAST—I HAVE
COME TO THE WOODS



HE ENTERED THE FOREST JOYFULLY

NOW I WILL REACH
THE KING AND BRING
GID TO ZBARAJ.



AND ONE NIGHT, AT COURT...

YOUR MAJESTY AN OFFICER HAS COME FROM ZBARAJ!

BRING HIM HERE!

YAY, RAGGED AND FAINT WITH FEVER, WAS BROUGHT BEFORE KING KAZIMIR.

WHAT NEWS HAVE YOU?

SUFFERING--HUNGER! THERE IS LITTLE POWDER AND THE ENEMY IS ON THE RAMPARTS-- HMELNITSKI AND THE TARTARS.



AND YOU HELD OUT?

WE REPULSED TWENTY ASSAULTS, WON SIXTEEN BATTLES IN THE FIELD AND WENT ON SEVENTY-FIVE SORTIES.

AS GOD LIVES, I CANNOT PERMIT MEN LIKE THIS TO PERISH. WE MARCH TO ZBARAJ AT ONCE.

THE KING AND HIS ARMY FOUGHT HMELNITSKI'S FORCES. AFTER A MURDEROUS, INDECISIVE BATTLE, A TREATY OF PEACE WAS CONCLUDED. BUT TWO YEARS LATER, HMELNITSKI ROSE AGAIN AND THE POLISH-COSSACK WARS RESUMED.



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.

HENRYK SIENKIEWICZ



HENRYK Sienkiewicz was born in 1846 at Wola Okrzejska near Lukow, in Siedlce, Russian Poland. He came from an old family of Lithuanian descent.

His early years were spent in close intimacy with nature. This gave him a love of Polish soil which later filled his writings. When he grew up, he studied philosophy at Warsaw University. He then took up journalism and his literary career began.

An undercurrent ran beneath his youth that was largely accountable for the direction his genius took. He was not yet seventeen when a Polish insurrection broke out in 1863; he was just eighteen when it ended. But it influenced the style of his work just as it influenced the unstable history of his country for generations to come.

Sienkiewicz saw Poland go through a period of great turmoil and unrest. He came forward as a novelist whose fame traveled beyond the confines of his forgotten country and reminded Europe that there was still a Poland.

As a master of historical romance, Sienkiewicz stands in the foremost rank of European novelists. He was among the first of the Polish novelists to write about peasant themes. He was a very versatile writer, equally at home in the short story, historical romance and the social novel.

He visited the United States in 1876, hav-

ing already traveled a great deal in Poland, Russia, France, Germany and England. His letters from America and Africa are among the best Polish books of travel.

During the early years of World War I, Sienkiewicz devoted his energies to the organization of relief for its Polish victims. In this, the closing span of his life, he held a unique position among his countrymen. He served as their representative and spokesman when Poland was under the heel of Russia, Prussia and Austria. He sent forth appeals against the injustices and persecutions of which his country was the victim. He did this in the form of open letters addressed to public figures and to the governments of Europe.

Sienkiewicz died on November 15, 1916, in the midst of the calamity in which his country was submerged.

Among Henryk Sienkiewicz' works are *In Tartar Captivity*, which gave him the idea for a trilogy of historical romances dealing with the resistance of the Poles against their enemies. This trilogy consists of *With Fire and Sword*, *The Deluge* and *Pan Michael*. The writing of these novels gave Sienkiewicz the position of national interpreter of Polish history and sentiment. The trilogy was followed by *Without Dogma*, a psychological story of nineteenth century life. He also wrote another psychological novel, *Children of the Soil* and a romance of the days of Nero's persecution of the early Christians, *Quo Vadis? Quo Vadis?* was very popular in the United States and was dramatized and produced both here and in England. In 1905, Sienkiewicz received the Nobel prize for literature for "the most important work of idealistic tendency."

TWO POLISH MASTERS



THE HISTORY of Poland is one of triumph and despair, beauty and bloodshed, victory and defeat. Poland is a country that has often been through the tragedy of war and destruction. Though her political history is unstable, her musical history is brilliant. She has produced two of the world's greatest musicians, Frédéric François Chopin and Ignace Jan Paderewski.

Frédéric François Chopin, composer and pianist, was born in 1809 in a village near Warsaw, Poland. His father, Nicholas, was of French origin but had lived in Poland for many years. His mother was Polish and of noble birth.

When Chopin was born, his father was tutor to the son of a Polish count. The Chopins lived in a small house on the count's country estate. They moved to Warsaw several months after Frédéric's birth. Here Nicholas Chopin became a professor of French at a high school.

Even as a small child, Chopin loved piano music. At six years of age, he started to take piano lessons. He began to compose before he knew how to write down his ideas. At eight he played in a public charity concert. His first published work appeared when he was fifteen. When he graduated from high school at seventeen, Chopin was recognized as the leading pianist of Warsaw and a talented composer.

In 1839, Chopin left for Vienna, where his debut as a pianist took place. He gave two concerts in Vienna, and they received great praise. While he was there, Poland revolted against its Russian rulers. The uprising failed, and the Czar put Warsaw under harsh military control. Chopin decided to move to Paris, where he remained for the rest of his life.

He became the favorite musical figure in Parisian society. He gave lessons and concerts, and publishers paid well for his com-

positions. The French loved him for his genius and charm. Poets, musicians and Polish exiles were among his friends.

Chopin was not able to enjoy his success fully. At the age of twenty-eight, he developed tuberculosis. He spent years in great pain and physical misery. The disease eventually caused his death on October 7, 1849.

Eleven years after the death of Chopin, another great Polish musician was born. His name was Ignace Jan Paderewski. He is considered one of the three greatest pianists of all time, ranking with Franz Liszt and Anton Gregor Rubinstein.

Paderewski began to play the piano when he was three years old, about the time his father took an active part in the Polish uprising of 1863. The terrible experience of seeing his father arrested by Cossacks made a profound impression on the child and deepened his love and devotion to his country.

As a boy he showed remarkable talent and feeling for music. He studied at the Warsaw Conservatory and in Berlin. He launched his career with concerts in Vienna and Paris, and made the first of many American tours in 1891. He was loved by audiences for his artistry, manner and his great shock of red-gold hair. While in America, Paderewski established a fund for American composers with prizes awarded every three years.

After World War I, he became the first premier of Poland and its representative at the Versailles Peace Conference. In December, 1919, he retired to his estate in Switzerland.

When Poland was again plundered in 1939, at the start of World War II, Paderewski once again showed his patriotism. He gave the last months of his life to his country.

He accepted the presidency of the Polish parliament in exile in January, 1940, and came to America to engage in war relief work. He died June 29, 1941, and was buried in Arlington National Cemetery.



THE COSSACK REVOLUTION

"The Cossacks! Beware, the Cossacks are coming!" This was a familiar cry heard in Russian cities during the days of the Czar. It heralded the appearance of a fierce band of horsemen who served the Czar as a cavalry.

The history of the Cossacks goes back to the sixteenth century. At that time, many outlaws were seeking refuge on islands in the Russian rivers which flow into the Black and Caspian seas. Instead of undertaking the difficult task of suppressing the outlaws, the Czar decided to use them to good advantage. They granted them large tracts of land to be held in common for grazing. In return these people agreed to serve as cavalry, supplying their own weapons and horses. This arrangement passed from father to son. It has lasted from that time, and by arrangement with the Soviet Union in 1936, it is still in effect.

The man who brought the Cossacks to the height of their power was Bogdan Hmelnitaki. Hmelnitaki was born in 1593. He was leader or chief of the Cossacks, but a Pole by descent. He was born near Chyhirin in the Ukraine. After serving with the Cossacks in 1646 in a campaign against the Turks, he suffered Polish persecution as a royalist and a Cossack, and he fled to the Cossack settlements on the lower Dnieper River.

On April 11, 1648, Hmelnitaki declared his intention of fighting the Poles. As a result

of his many victories, the serfs followed him and rose throughout the Ukraine.

At the time of the Cossack Revolution, Poland was a vast power stretching from the Baltic Sea to the Black Sea. The land was ruled by Polish nobles who had the power of life and death over their subjects. There was also a religious difference. The Polish nobles were Roman Catholic. The Cossacks and the peasants were Eastern Orthodox.

Hmelnitaki and the Cossacks joined forces with the Tartars. The Cossacks fought for independence. The Poles fought to preserve their homeland. There were many battles and great loss of life on both sides. Finally, after the bloody battle of Zbarazj, a peace treaty was concluded at Zborovo. But two years later, Hmelnitaki, the Cossacks and Tartars rose again. This time the Cossacks and their allies were no match for the Poles. The Cossacks were defeated at the battle of Berestechko in 1651.

Three years later, Hmelnitaki turned to Moscow and the Cossack army took the oath of allegiance to the Russian Czar. Russia and the Cossacks attacked Poland. While Poland was embattled on the east, Sweden attacked on the west.

This war lasted thirteen years. Bogdan Hmelnitaki did not live to see its outcome. He died in 1657.



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