Caught Within the Enemy's Lines

A Story For Washington's Birthday

By EVERETT P. CLARKE

There are many noted points connected with the American Revolution in New Jersey. The main struggle began in Massachusetts, was transferred to New York and the bulk of it was fought out in New Jersey, the surrender being made in Virginia. After the battle of Long Island General Washington's central point—that is, when he was not in the field—was at Morristown, in a house which is now owned by a society whose business it is to keep it in order as a memento of the Father of His Country.

Some ten miles south of Morristown is Basking ridge, where is situated one of New Jersey's historic homes. During Washington's occupancy of the house at Morristown a wedding occurred at this house, which he attended. On his way back to his headquarters he stopped at a house in a little place called Mendham, telling the members of his staff who were with him to ride on slowly and he would overtake them.

Dismounting from his horse the general entered the gate and asked for admittance by means of the brass knocker which in those days was used instead of the modern bell. He was admitted by Miss Dorothy Hughes, the daughter of the person he sought.

"How now, Mistress Dorothy?" said the general, noticing that she was very pale and all of a tremor. "What is the matter?"

"Nothing," stammered the girl, "except an agitation at our house being honored by so important a personage as the commander in chief."

"I fear you are exaggerating. Is your father within?"

"No, general. He went to Elizabethtown this morning. We do not expect his return till late this evening."

General Washington thought a moment, then said:

"Do you think you could deliver a message to him when he returns?"

"I fear, general, that I am a bit flustered at the honor of this call. I may not give your message aright."

"How is it, Mistress Dorothy, that notwithstanding this high honor which you consider done you by the commander in chief you permit him to stand without invitation to enter?"

"Pardon me, your excellency; I did not suppose that you would stop after hearing father is not at home. Will you be pleased to enter?"

"Only for the purpose of writing a message since you are not minded to deliver it verbally."

The girl led the general into the living room, where she left him for a few minutes to go for writing paper and a quill. The general after sharpening the quill with his penknife sat down at a table, wrote his message, sanded it, then took it to a window to read it over. The window was draped with heavy damask curtains, and his excellency in order to get a better light moved one of them aside. In doing so his arm encountered a resistance other than wood. Throwing back the curtain, he exposed a young man in the uniform of a lieutenant in the British army.

The reason for Dorothy's agitation and unwillingness to admit him flashed upon Washington at once.

He regarded the young man sternly, then turned his gaze on Dorothy, who, white as a cloth, was supporting herself by a mantel over the great stone fireplace. The general saw at once that he had discovered a pair of lovers.

"Don't fear, Mistress Dorothy," he said. "Fortunately your guest is in uniform. Had he come without the insignia of his office it would have been my duty to have him arrested and tried for being within our lines as a spy. His object in coming is only too apparent—not to look at our forces and our equipment to carry information of it to General Howe at New York, but to feast his eyes on a very charming young lady." Then to the officer he continued: "My position as an officer in the Continental army does not require me to make a mountain of a molehill by accusing you of intentions which you have not, but it does require me to take you into custody. Yet even that need not inconvenience you or shorten your visit. You are my prisoner. Give me your name and rank."

"I am Lieutenant Ralph Harding of his British majesty's ——th regiment of foot."

"Very well, lieutenant. Now give me your word of honor as an officer and a gentleman that as soon as you have finished your visit to my esteemed friend, Mistress Dorothy Hughes, you will proceed to the British lines and will not bear arms against the Continental forces until you have been duly exchanged."

An expression of relief, which was reflected in Dorothy's features, appeared on the young man's face as he gave the required promise. Washington went to the table, wrote something and handed it to him. It read as follows:

Pass Lieutenant Ralph Harding of the British army without our lines.

Lieutenant Harding turned his eyes from the paper to the man who gave it.

"General," he said, "I don't wonder that the Americans revere you. Accept my heartfelt thanks."

Then the commander in chief handed the message he had written to Dorothy and was turning to leave the room when she threw her arms around his neck and sobbed her thanks.

Within a month Harding was exchanged for an American officer of equal rank.

ANCIENT GREEK TRAINING.

What it Did For the Boy Physically and Intellectually.

The manner in which the Athenians brought up their children is worth remembering.

At seven years of age the Athenian lad entered the palestra, which was essentially a playground. All the first and better half of the day was spent in gymnastics, dancing, games and play. In the afternoon there were singing, some writing, some reading, all in the open air, and then came a long period of play again. Such was the schooling of the Greek lad up to the age of ten or eleven, and it did not differ essentially up to the age of sixteen, except in the severity of the exercises.

And yet the world has not ceased to marvel at the results of the Greek education. It produced the highest type of man, physically and intellectually, that the world has ever seen, which Galton says was as far in advance of the modern Englishman as the modern Englishman is in advance of the native African.

In physical beauty, courage and patriotism, in philosophy, literature, architecture and art, the Greeks have been the unsurpassed models of the ages and are still the inspiration of our schools today. But they placed the emphasis upon hygiene, exercise, games and play, which are too much neglected in these days.—Kansas City Star.

THE PLANET MERCURY.

It Is Difficult to Weigh, and Its Orbit Is Very Eccentric.

Though Mercury is one of the smallest of the planets, it is perhaps the most troublesome of all to the astronomer.

It lies so close to the sun that it is seen but seldom in comparison with the other great planets. Its orbit is very eccentric, and it experiences disturbances by the attraction of other bodies in a way not yet fully understood.

A special difficulty has also been found in the attempt to place Mercury in the weighing scales. We can weigh the whole earth, we can weigh the sun, the moon and even Jupiter and other planets, but Mercury presents difficulties of a peculiar character. Le Verrier, however, succeeded in devising a method of weighing it.

He demonstrated that our earth is attracted by this planet, and he showed how the amount of attraction may be disclosed by observations of the sun, so that from an examination of the observations he made an approximate determination of the mass of Mercury.

Le Verrier's result indicated that the weight of the planet was about the fifteenth part of the weight of the earth. In other words, if our earth was placed in a balance and fifteen globes, each equal to Mercury, were laid in the other the scales would hang evenly.—"Story of the Heavens."

Spain's Arbitration Court.

"The most unique and interesting institution for the settlement of civil suits in Spain," writes Thomas W. Palmer, Jr., in Case and Comment, "is the arbitration court. All contentions or disputes before or after the commencement of litigation, no matter how far advanced, can be submitted to an arbitration tribunal by agreement of all the interested parties. The exceptions to this are those suits involving political and civil rights, etc., or those matters in which the state is especially concerned. The arbitrators, whose number must not exceed five, are lawyers of twenty-five or more years of age and in full enjoyment of civil rights. In some instances the arbitrators may be laymen (amigables componedores). Appeal is made from the arbitration direct to the territorial appeal court. This method of deciding claims has proved successful and is employed considerably."

Speculative Life Insurance.

A mania for speculative insurances on the lives of public personages prevailed in England during the eighteenth century. Warren Hastings, the pretender, the rebel lord or the unfortunate Admiral Byng answered equally the purpose of speculation, and there were also regular quotations on the lives of notorious highwaymen. Sir Robert Walpole at one period of his career, when his life was endangered by popular tumults, was insured for many thousands and when George II. fought at Dettingen 25 per cent was paid against his return. Such speculative insurances were, however, largely checked by the gambling act of 1774, which made insurable interest a necessary condition for a valid policy.

He Knew.

The professor of the class in English history was telling his young men of the impressionable age about the Elizabethan era when, suddenly turning to one of the young men, who seemed to be in a dream, with a faraway gaze, he said.

"And how old was Elizabeth, Mr. Case?"

"Eighteen last birthday," came the instant reply.

The Largest Reptile.

The largest existent reptile is the man eating salt water crocodile of southern Asia and Australia, which, when full grown, measures thirty feet in length from end of nose to tip of tail. One man makes hardly more than a mouthful for this fearsome creature.

She Knew It.

He—Didn't it ever occur to you that I was in love with you? She—Certainly; haven't you ever noticed me laughing to myself?—Topeka Journal.

A CUP OF COFFEE.

It Has No Value as Food, but It Has a Stimulating Effect.

The infusion of coffee presents practically very little material that is of direct nourishing value, says a writer in the London Tablet, but by diminishing nervous fatigue, by virtue chiefly of the caffeine present, it may increase muscular power. It is not itself a builder of tissue. The use of coffee after dinner, it is of interest to note, is justified in a large number of cases by the fact of its stimulating effect upon the vital centers, and it is said to serve to some extent as an antidote to alcohol.

It is commonly claimed to remove drowsiness. As a matter of fact, in many subjects it produces drowsiness, but this is usually followed by marked wakefulness. The practice of drinking coffee after a meal for the sake of the stimulus which is experienced has much to be said in its favor dietetically.

There is no reason for supposing that coffee possesses any value as a food. The berry contains a quite important proportion of fatty substances (12 per cent average), but these are necessarily excluded from the infusion, as, owing to their insolubility, they remain in the "grounds."

According to our analysis, the protein contents of a cup of coffee are small, approximating to 1.25 per cent of the coffee extracted. This amount can have little dietetic significance. There is also a trifling quantity of sugar present, besides traces of alcohol, which again can possess no importance from a physiological point of view.

WOOD FOR VIOLINS.

Maple Is the Best and Is What the Old World Famed Makers Used.

In the finest violins the body is made of white maple. In cheap ones violet ebony is used. In medium priced ones alternate leaves of the two are employed. The best wood of all is that of the epicea, a tree resembling a fir in general appearance, which grows in central and northern Europe, but musical instrument makers set special value on that from the Vosges mountains. Its wood is most homogeneous and has the advantage over all others that there is scarcely any difference between the sap wood and the heart.

Violet ebony, which comes from Brazil, Africa and India, is much used for pianos. True ebony is now so expensive that it is reserved for nuts and twisters.

Sycamore maple, somewhat less homogeneous than white maple, and hence less sonorous, is employed chiefly in making mandolins.

The wood of trees from high altitudes and a severe climate is much better than that from plains and warmer countries for all purposes in which sonority is desired. And it should have had not less than 200 or 300 years of growth, and its concentric circles should be no more than two or three millimeters apart.

The ancient violin makers, Stradivarius, Amati, Guarnerius and the others, used the finest and best seasoned maple, and this, with their perfect varnish, is why their violins have lasted so long.—New York World.

The Seven Wise Men of Greece.

The seven wise men of Greece were Thales of Miletus, Periander of Corinth, Cleobulus of Lyndus, Chilon of Lacedaemon, Solon of Athens, Bias of Priene and Pittacus of Mitylene. Some fishermen of Miletus sold a draft of fishes to a bystander. When the net was drawn in it contained a golden tripod, and the purchaser claimed it was his, while the fishermen contended that they sold only the fish that might be in the net. The dispute was referred to the oracle of Delphi, who awarded the tripod to the wisest man in Greece. Thereupon it was taken to Thales, who declined it and suggested that it be given to Bias. He in turn refused to accept it, and thus it was successively declined by all the seven, and they were thereafter known as the seven wise men of Greece.

Beltane.

In the highlands of Scotland and in Ireland May 1 was called Beltane. This was the name of an ancient pagan festival, traces of which have survived to this day. The name is still used for May day in Gaelic Scotland. It is said that the druids on that day used to make two fires with great incantations and drive their cattle between them as a safeguard against disease.

Every Move a Picture.

"That movie star spends all his time in bed when he isn't acting."

"Is the work, then, so awfully arduous?"

"No, but he can't bear to stand around in elegant poses that he isn't being paid for."—Pittsburgh Post.

The Only Way.

"I done wore out three foots of a graveyard rabbit in de hopes of good luck comin' my way," said Brother Williams, "an' I des 'bout come ter de conclusion dat de only way ter git dar is ter go ter work fer yo' livin'."—Atlanta Constitution.

Appropriate Emblem.

"You women ought to organize a society for the encouragement of pickpockets."

"What do you mean?"

"And adopt as your insignia the dangling hand bag."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

What you do for an ungrateful man is thrown away.—Latin Proverb.

HEAT OF OUR SUN

To Measure It Is a Perplexing Problem For Science.

NEWTON ONCE TRIED TO DO IT

He Figured It at the Amazing Intensity of 1,680,300 Degrees Centigrade, While the Latest Estimates Place It at About 6,500 Degrees.

How hot is the sun? The question has been answered in many different ways, and it is by no means certain that we have yet arrived at an even approximately accurate answer. Yet it would seem that, as the sun is the only source of the earth's heat, and as we know the exact distance of the sun, it ought to be easy to calculate his heat. That is what Newton thought in 1680 when, finding that a thermometer registered 55 degrees C. in the sun and 20.44 degrees C. in the shade, and applying the law of the square of distance he announced that the sun's heat was 1,680,300 degrees C.!

In 1837 Sir John Herschel and Pouillet devised special instruments for measuring the solar heat, but at the very beginning disagreed on a fundamental question. Pouillet wanted to estimate that the earth's atmosphere cut off half the sun's heat; Herschel insisted that it cut off only one-third. Herschel reached the conclusion that the sun's heat was two calories per square centimeter per minute. Pouillet calculated it at 1.7683 calories per square centimeter per minute. This means that the sun's rays falling vertically upon each square centimeter of the earth's surface would be sufficiently powerful, if it were not for their absorption by our atmosphere, to raise 1.7683 grams of water one degree C. per minute. This number is what astronomers call the solar constant.

Pouillet's figures, 1.7, were generally accepted until recently. Forbes by experiments at the top and at the base of a high mountain calculated that 2.85 was the correct number. Violle made it 2.54, and Crova asserted that it was certainly superior to two calories per square centimeter per minute.

The American Langley invented the bolometer, by means of which he measured the intensity of each ray by the length of its wave before entering our atmosphere. Thus he proved that the rays of shortest length are those that are most absorbed. It is as if we placed two red glasses between ourselves and the sun, one representing the sun's atmosphere and one representing our own.

The Abbe Moreux, director of the Bourges observatory, declares in an article in Cosmos that if these two atmospheres were eliminated and we could see the sun as he really is he would appear to be a brilliant greenish blue.

Langley's calculations placed the solar constant at about three. He proved that scarcely 40 per cent of the sun's rays penetrated to sea level.

Other observers obtained other figures, and at the beginning of this century the tendency was to return to those announced by Herschel and Pouillet.

It is certain that the earth intercepts only about one two-billionth part of the actual heat of the sun, but if we adopt Langley's figure, 3, we find that the fraction of heat received would be sufficient to melt annually a layer of ice 222.75 feet thick at the equator of the earth. The average power received from the sun over the entire earth is equal to 154,000,000 kilogrammeters a year, or one continuous horsepower for every 1.72 square meters.

The greater part of this heat is used up in keeping the earth warm; but, according to Helmholtz, about a thousandth part of it is absorbed by animals and vegetables and becomes an abundant reserve of energy for the human race.

If we accept the more recent figures, which are the result of the calculations of Messrs. Abbott, Fowle and Aldrich at the Smithsonian institution in Washington and call the solar constant two calories per square centimeter per minute, the results are scarcely less striking.

If the total heat could be applied to a block of ice at 0 degrees C. as thick as the earth—8000 miles—this would be entirely melted in a quarter of an hour. All the water thus obtained would be turned to steam at 100 degrees C. 117 minutes later, the whole operation from ice to steam having taken only two hours and twelve minutes.

The most recent estimate of the temperature of the sun's surface is between 6,000 and 7,000 degrees C.—New York World.

Limited Dissipation.

A small henpecked little man was about to take an examination for life insurance.

"You don't dissipate, do you?" asked the physician as he made ready for tests. "No—a fast liver or anything of that sort?"

The little man hesitated a moment, looked a bit frightened, then replied in a small, piping voice, "I sometimes chew a little gum."—Collier's Weekly.

Over the Limit.

Husband (reading from his paper)—Here, they say, is a comet coming toward the earth, traveling at the rate of a million miles a minute. Wife (awaking from a doze) — Why don't they enforce the speed laws better?—Exchange.

Every man's house is his safest refuge.—Law Maxim.

An Inspiring Sight

By I. A. MITCHEL

Jacques Gleason, who was serving in the French army in the north of France, suddenly felt his horse give way beneath him and collapsed, going down with thousands of explosions ringing in his ears. Mingled with these were the shouting of officers, neighing of horses, shrieks, groans—indeed, every conceivable sound incident to battle. But he did not hear them long, for he became unconscious.

Jacques awoke. He heard as from the piping of a fife as a few feet by opening his eyes he saw only the blue heavens and a light cloud sailing ever so peacefully, for he was lying on his back. He felt of himself and came upon a spot in his side where pressure gave him pain. A little further investigation with his hand told him that he had been wounded there, and his clothing had stanched the flow of blood.

Jacques lay still. He did not dare to move for fear that his wound would be opened. He was not sure that he could move. He had no doubt he could move unless it was to get water. He wondered whether there had been victory or defeat for the side on which he had fought. Was he in the French or German lines? How long had he been there? He tried to lift his head to see about him, but he could not. It was lonely to be out there on the battlefield, left to die with no one even to take a message for loved ones at home.

War, which had brought him to such a pass, came to console him, at least to occupy his mind. What seemed to be a huge bird sailed gracefully into his field of view, then another and another. They were all moving in the same direction. From the rear a little puff of smoke appeared and floated listlessly away to the rear.

In another moment two aeroplanes, moving side by side and in the opposite direction to those Jacques had already seen, appeared in the heavens. They were driving straight at the others. He judged that the three were French and was sure the two were German, because they were observing the German method of attack. He had learned that there was no defense to the German array; it was all erring.

Another shot, this time from one of a German aeroplane, it evidently caused some damage to one of his enemy's wings, for there appeared a spot through which Jacques could see light. Several shots were fired in quick succession by the Frenchmen. There was no report, for sound rises. The only indication of the shots was the little puffs of smoke.

The aeroplanes were now maneuvering, circling, each side trying to get in a shot that would strike an enemy's vital part. The Germans, though the attacking party, seemed sensible of the fact that they were inferior in numbers and used their skill to secure a favorable position by separating the Frenchmen and attacking in detail.

Jacques heard a report and a slight vibration of the earth on which he was stretched and in a few seconds saw one of the French aeroplanes stagger like a wounded bird. One of its wings was broken. It sank in circles, soon falling below the range of the soldier's vision.

The numbers on each side were now even. One of the German ships tried to ram one of the Frenchmen, but missed it by what seemed to Jacques a hair's breadth. At the same time a shot from the other Frenchman wounded a German bird.

Jacques was no longer a lonely wounded man on a deserted battlefield. The spirit of contention was again aroused in him. He wished he were up in the air in one of the aeroplanes. He saw an advantage of position for one of the aerial Frenchmen. Forgetting that he could not be heard, he shouted:

"You're on his broadside! Strike his propeller!"

The sound of his voice seemed to mock him. For a moment the stillness that followed it seemed like that of death. Then a voice near by came somberly:

"Comrade, have you any water?"

"Water! No!" cried Jacques. "That man up there had an advantage, and I can't make him hear. There! He has lost it."

"I don't care for the man up there. I am only interested in the man down here—myself. I am suffering from a horrible thirst."

Another puff of smoke from a Frenchman and one of the German aeroplanes dropped like lead. A report from below and a Frenchman followed to earth. Another report and the remaining Frenchman turned and fled. The Germans followed for a short distance, but his propeller had been injured, and he, too, was obliged to turn to his own regions.

"That was more revivifying," said Jacques, raising himself on his elbow and looking at the man who had asked for water, "than a skirmish. I feel ready to fight again."

"Not I, especially in the air," replied the other. "It's quite enough for me to be wounded on the earth without falling from a thousand feet."

"Here comes the Red Cross. I am anxious to recover and get into the ranks again. What a fine sight that was!"

He attempted to rise. Blood gushed from his side. He sank again, and when they put him on a stretcher he was dead.

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