

Holding Buckskin Lake

By Amos C. Wilson

Chapter 2

A message for George Washington.

Captain Jehoieda thundered down a well used path. His destination, Fort Pordniar. Folded up in his pocket was a note written by General Boudinot, to General Washington. Fort Pordniar was almost exactly half way in-between his starting point and George Washington's camp. Jehoieda knew that Lieutenant Othniel would be waiting for him to pass of the letter at Fort Pordniar, and then he would have to make sure no one was following Othniel. Just as he thought that a bullet whizzed past his Jehoieda dug his heels into his horse's side and galloped of. He chanced to look back; the infamous British spy John was climbing out of a tree behind him! he kept his horse going at brake neck speed; when all of a sudden he was nearly killed by a blast of machine-gun fire from a near by bush. Jehoieda fired a shot into the bush and yelled:

"Machine-guns haven't been invented yet!"

"Oops, sorry," came the answer, but Jehoieda didn't here it; he had already galloped of. Out of the bush emerged two brothers, Mahlon and Kilion. They joined Spy John as he ran after Jehoieda.

Jehoieda suddenly came to a halt in-front of a large dried up stream bed. On the other side of the stream bed was Fort Pordniar.

Fort Pordniar consisted of a tree with a smallish watch tower in it. Around the base of the tree was a six foot high plywood wall with ramparts. The east side of the wall came right up to the deep stream bed. The steam bed on Fort Pordniar's side slanted down ten feet, but on Jehoieda's side it went down about twenty feet. What Jehoieda couldn't see – but knew existed – was an under ground chamber, with oaken doors that lead out into the stream bed.

Jehoieda leaped of his horse and grabbed a rope that was hidden by a tree, with the rope he swung across the stream bed and landed in the watch tower. From there he hurried down a spiral staircase to ground level where he met lieutenant Othniel. He past is note of to Othniel and said:

"The Brits are coming, you better go fast; I'll keep them as long as I can."

Othniel nodded and ran out a gate that faced north towards Fort Consen house where George Washington was camped.

From behind a bush on the other side of the stream bed the dreaded British general Hezekiah watched the proceedings. As soon as Othniel had run of he rolled his wheel-chair over to Jehoieda's horse and mounted it. Just then John, Mahlon and Kilion arrived. They saluted to Hezekiah when they saw him.

"The American Captain Jehoieda is in Fort Pordniar, he has past the note of to Lieutenant Othniel, and before we can chase after him we must take fort Pordniar, so with out any further ado, *charge!*"

The four Bits charged down the hill firing at Jehoieda as they went, but sine they weren't aimed very well the whizzed harmlessly past him. Jehoieda took careful aim and fired, Kilion spun around and smashed to the ground; the other Bits didn't seem to notice,

and if they had they wouldn't have sympathized with him, not even Mahlon or Hezekiah, his brothers. Jehoieda aimed again, suddenly Hezekiah thundered past him and fired a shot through his shoulder; Jehoieda crumpled to the ground holding his shoulder. At that moment John and Mahlon vaulted over the wall. Mahlon stabbed him with his sword and John unceremoniously threw his body over the wall to the whoops of joy from Mahlon.

Othniel heard the whoops and knew what they meant. He bared his teeth in rage, how could they have killed Jehoieda? Suddenly another thought struck him, the dreaded Hezekiah must be on my trail! He knew that Hezekiah was lame so he couldn't get off his horse. Othniel turned of the path into dense foliage where the horse couldn't follow him.

Hezekiah came to the point where Othniel had turned off the road.

"Mahlon and John!" he yelled. The two Brits arrived on the scene almost instantly.

"You two follow Othniel through the woods, I'll make sure he doesn't come back onto the road; we must get that letter back at all costs!" The two spies nodded and ran off through the woods. Othniel could hear the two Brits following him; he desperately tried to think of a way to get them off his trail. Just then he saw a large bolder in-front of him. He quickly ran up and hid behind the rock. He only had to wait one and a half minutes before Mahlon walked past the bolder.

Bang!

A bullet ripped out of Othniel's gun; Mahlon collapsed. Othniel instinctively dashed behind the other side of the bolder, not a moment too late either; just then John had leaped over Mahlon and fired. John had seen Othniel run behind the corner of the bolder before he fired. John slowly walked to the corner of the bolder, then dashed around it and fired. Othniel was not around the corner! John stared in disbelief at where Othniel had been standing not half a moment ago. Suddenly without warning Othniel leaped from the top of the bolder - where he had climbed up to - and landed on-top of John with his sword drawn. John collapsed holding his cut leg in pain. Othniel didn't have time to knock him out and bring him to the revolutionaries' jail, so he just had to leave him; but he made a mental note to come back for him as soon as he had delivered his message.

As Othniel ran on he came to an electric fence, the boundary marker for Fort Consen house without thinking Othniel ran to the road where there was a gate where he could pass through easily. Othniel froze as he saw standing in the gateway was Hezekiah, astride his black horse, sword drawn and waiting.

"Halt Rebel!" commanded Hezekiah sternly. Othniel didn't halt instead he hurled himself upon Hezekiah. Hezekiah expertly blocked every blow. Finally Hezekiah managed to give one offensive blow; since he had been in a wheel chair all his life his arms were considerably stronger than Othniel's. Othniel was thrown to the ground. He leaped back up two his feet and swung his sword at Hezekiah, suddenly a bullet ricocheted off of Othniel's sword. Othniel spun around and saw John leaning against a tree reloading his gun.

"Give me the letter and I'll let you go alive!" bartered Hezekiah.

"If you want the letter you'll have to kill me first, the letter is for George Washington's eyes alone!" answered Othniel.

Hezekiah swung his sword; Othniel barely managed to dodge, Hezekiah prepared to make another slash, but was stopped as three rocks hurtled out of a near-by bush. John fell flat on his back as he tried to dodge one, and Hezekiah nearly fell off his horse. He managed to stay on only by moving out of the gate way. Othniel took his chance. He bolted through the gate way and whacked Hezekiah's horse as he ran by. Hezekiah was an expert horseman, so he was able to calm his horse down very easily. No sooner had he done so then the throwers of the rocks ran out of the bush, they were three girls, Orpah, Lillian and Julianna.

"Hey," said John as soon as he saw them, "We're not supposed to use rocks!" his sister Julianna only grinned, "Well, if it weren't for us, George Washington wouldn't have been able to receive his letter." Orpah looked at Hezekiah her little brother,

"I'm surprised at you, trying to kill a Captain of the continental army." Hezekiah matched the grin on Lillian's face. Just then Mahlon, Kilion and John ambled up to where John was.

"So has the air-soft war been called off or something?" he asked Hezekiah's grin disappeared

"Right, you three Brits take care of these women and this Revolutionary while I catch Othniel."

Mahlon and Kilion saluted and stepped towards the girls as Hezekiah rode off; but both of them stopped as Jehoieda and John raised their guns at them.

"One step closer to our sisters and, *bang*, understand?" said Jehoieda menacingly.

Othniel was a good hundred yards in-front of Hezekiah, but those hundred yards were rapidly growing smaller. He could see Fort Consen house not too far off. He blasted through the front yard – scattering chickens as he did so. Othniel made it to the door as Hezekiah came into the yard, Othniel banged on the door; Hezekiah aimed his gun and pulled the trigger. The door swung open. At this moment every thing in Othniel's mind changed. Hezekiah turned into his crippled friend, Fort Consen house turned into his house, and the bullet in the air turned into an air-soft bullet that bounced harmlessly off his shirt.

"Ah, Othniel." said Mr. Consen after he had opened the door, "what are you doing here?"

Othniel grinned up at his dad, "Mr. Villhart told me to give you this," Othniel handed his dad the "note" that he had been keeping safe, it turned out to instead be a book. Mr. Consen looked at it puzzled then he realized what the book was

"Oh, it's my critically analyzed Greek translation that I'd loaned Mr. Villhart. Tell him that I am glad to have it back."

Othniel nodded and turned to go. Mr. Consen just then noticed Hezekiah.

"Well," he commented "you seem to be getting the hang of horse back riding"

Hezekiah grinned "It sure beats wheel-chair back riding!" his remark was greeted with laughter.

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