

MEDAL OF HONOR

JACOB PARROTT



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MEDAL OF HONOR

JACOB PARROTT

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GENERAL DYNAMICS



APRIL 1862.
CENTRAL
TENNESSEE.

A YOUNG PRIVATE WAS ASKED
TO JOIN A SPECIAL MISSION
BEHIND ENEMY LINES.

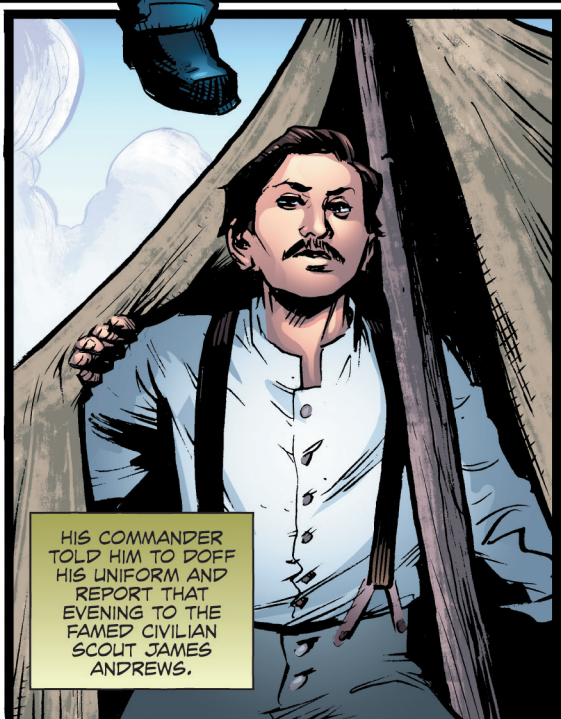
IF CAUGHT, IT
COULD MEAN THE
GALLOWS FOR...

JACOB PARROTT



PARROTT LOST BOTH PARENTS
BY THE AGE OF TEN.

WHEN HE TURNED
EIGHTEEN HE ENLISTED
IN COMPANY K, 33RD
OHIO VOLUNTEER
INFANTRY.



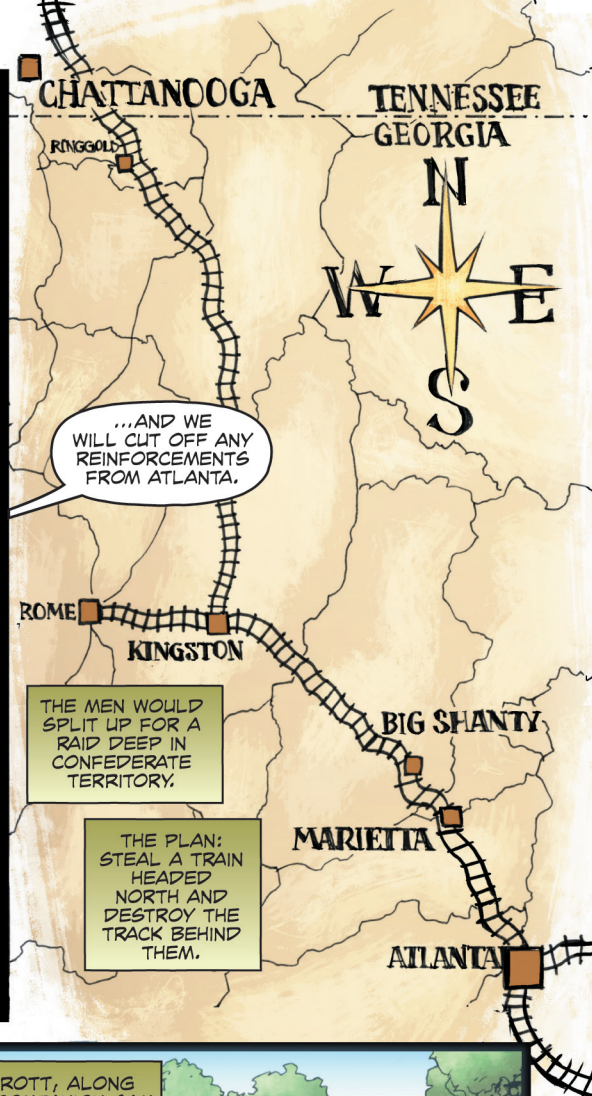
HIS COMMANDER
TOLD HIM TO DOFF
HIS UNIFORM AND
REPORT THAT
EVENING TO THE
FAMED CIVILIAN
SCOUT JAMES
ANDREWS.



TWENTY-FOUR MEN FROM THREE OHIO REGIMENTS HAD VOLUNTEERED TO JOIN THE ADVENTURE.

CHATTANOOGA IS THE KEY TO ALL THE SOUTH.

GENERAL MITCHELL WILL MOVE ON THE CITY...



...AND WE WILL CUT OFF ANY REINFORCEMENTS FROM ATLANTA.

THE MEN WOULD SPLIT UP FOR A RAID DEEP IN CONFEDERATE TERRITORY.

THE PLAN: STEAL A TRAIN HEADED NORTH AND DESTROY THE TRACK BEHIND THEM.



IN CIVILIAN DRESS AND ARMED ONLY WITH PISTOLS, GROUPS OF TWO AND THREE SET OFF SOUTH ON FOOT AWAY FROM THE UNION LINES.

BOYS, WE'RE GOING INTO DANGER, BUT FOR RESULTS THAT CAN BE TREMENDOUS.



PARROTT, ALONG WITH COMPANION SAM ROBERTSON, MADE HIS WAY THROUGH WOODS AND FARMS AND PAST TOWNS.



THEY HAD A COVER STORY WHICH WAS READILY BELIEVED BY ALL WHO CHALLENGED THEM.

AFTER FOUR DAYS OF RAIN AND PRIVATION, THEY MADE IT TO THE RENDEZVOUS.

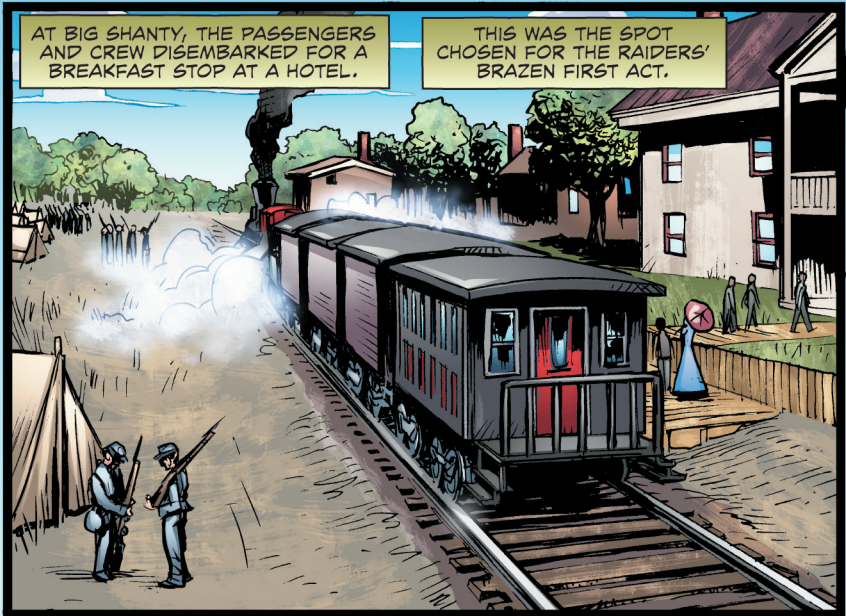
WE ARE KENTUCKY-BORN MEN SEEKING TO JOIN OUR BROTHERS-IN-ARMS AGAINST THE YANKEES.



ALL BUT FOUR OF THE COMPANY OF RAIDERS BOARDED THE NORTHBOUND MAIL TRAIN AT MARIETTA, GEORGIA.



INSIDE ONE OF THE COACHES, THEY SPENT THE TWENTY-MINUTE RIDE TO THE NEXT STATION READY FOR ACTION.

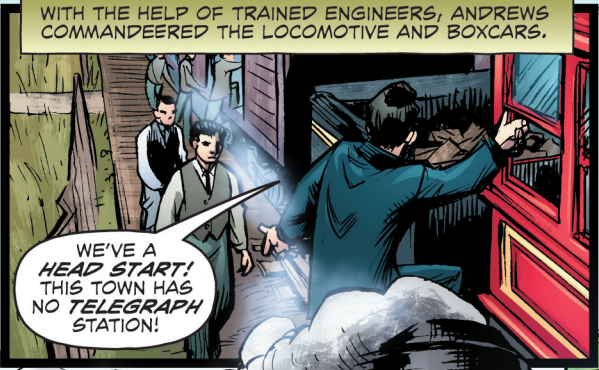


AT BIG SHANTY, THE PASSENGERS AND CREW DISEMBARKED FOR A BREAKFAST STOP AT A HOTEL.

THIS WAS THE SPOT CHOSEN FOR THE RAIDERS' BRAZEN FIRST ACT.



WELL, BOYS, I GUESS IT'S TIME TO GO.



WITH THE HELP OF TRAINED ENGINEERS, ANDREWS COMMANDEERED THE LOCOMOTIVE AND BOXCARS.

WE'VE A HEAD START! THIS TOWN HAS NO TELEGRAPH STATION!



THE GENERAL, A POWERFUL WOODBURNER, WAS NOW IN UNION HANDS.

MY ENGINE!



AS THEY MADE THEIR WAY NORTH ALONG THE SINGLE TRACK, THE RAIDERS REMOVED SECTIONS OF RAIL AND CUT TELEGRAPH LINES.



AT KINGSTON THEY WERE FORCED TO PULL ONTO A SIDING TO ALLOW SOUTHBOUND FREIGHT TRAINS TO PASS.

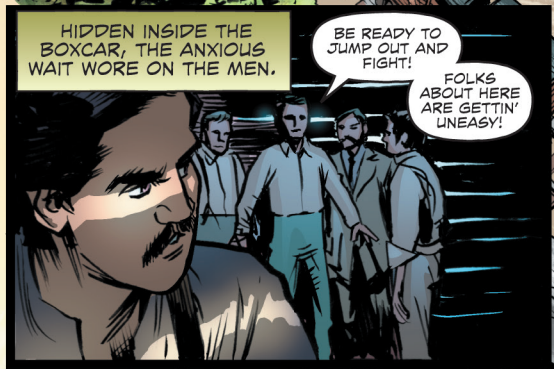
FOR OVER AN HOUR THEY WAITED, FEARING DISCOVERY WITH EVERY PASSING SECOND.



ONCE AGAIN, SHEER GALL AND A GLIB TONGUE HALTED FURTHER INQUIRY.

WHY, THIS IS A SPECIAL **EMERGENCY** TRAIN WITH **AMMUNITION** FOR GENERAL BEAUREGARD.

SIR, I WOULD SEND MY **SHIRT** TO BEAUREGARD IF HE NEEDED IT.



HIDDEN INSIDE THE BOXCAR, THE ANXIOUS WAIT WORE ON THE MEN.

BE READY TO JUMP OUT AND FIGHT!

FOLKS ABOUT HERE ARE GETTIN' UNEASY!



THE RAIDERS COULD WAIT NO LONGER. ANDREWS GRABBED THE SWITCHMAN'S KEYS AND UNLOCKED THE SWITCH TO THE MAIN TRACK.

BRING HER UP!



THE ENEMY LOCOMOTIVE **YONAH** PULLED INTO KINGSTON ONLY FOUR MINUTES AFTER THE RAIDERS LEFT. BUT THE RAIL YARD WAS JAMMED WITH TRAIN CARS.

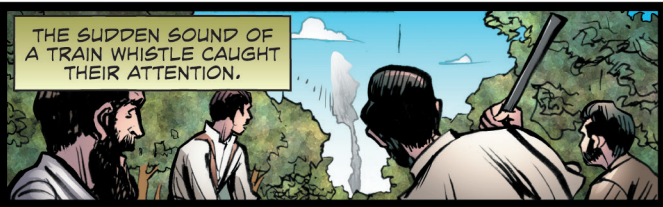
YANKEES STOLE THE **GENERAL!**

RAISE THE ALARM!

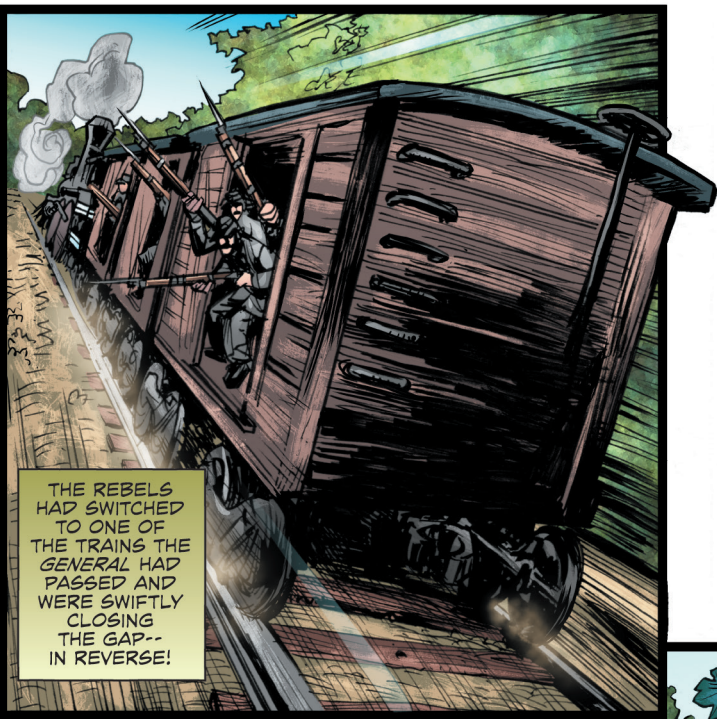
RELIEVED TO BE PAST THE DELAYS AT KINGSTON, THE RAIDERS AGAIN CUT THE TELEGRAPH WIRES AND TORE UP TRACK TO BLOCK ANY TRAINS THAT MIGHT FOLLOW.



THE SUDDEN SOUND OF A TRAIN WHISTLE CAUGHT THEIR ATTENTION.



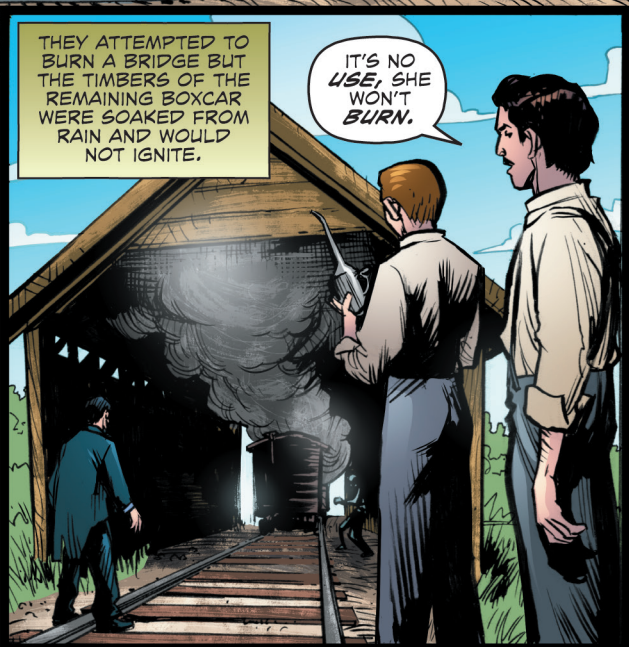
THE REBELS HAD SWITCHED TO ONE OF THE TRAINS THE GENERAL HAD PASSED AND WERE SWIFTLY CLOSING THE GAP-- IN REVERSE!



THE RAIDERS RELEASED TWO OF THEIR BOXCARS TO BLOCK THE TRACKS.

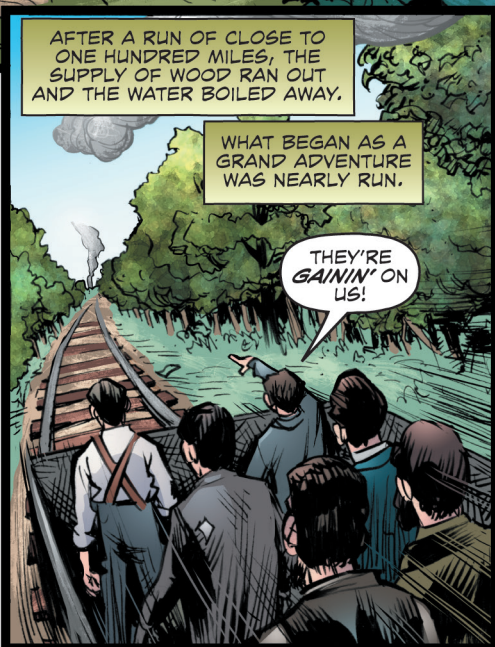


THEY ATTEMPTED TO BURN A BRIDGE BUT THE TIMBERS OF THE REMAINING BOXCAR WERE SOAKED FROM RAIN AND WOULD NOT IGNITE.



IT'S NO USE, SHE WON'T BURN.

AFTER A RUN OF CLOSE TO ONE HUNDRED MILES, THE SUPPLY OF WOOD RAN OUT AND THE WATER BOILED AWAY.



WHAT BEGAN AS A GRAND ADVENTURE WAS NEARLY RUN.

THEY'RE GAININ' ON US!

NOW A DESPERATE RUSH TO ESCAPE BEGAN.

THE GENERAL WAS SET IN REVERSE TOWARD THE PURSUERS AND ANDREWS ORDERED HIS MEN TO MAKE THEIR BEST WAY BACK TO FEDERAL LINES.

EVERY MAN FOR HIMSELF!

SCATTER, BOYS!

THE WORD WENT OUT ALONG THE TRACKS AND THE MANHUNT FOR THE "ENGINE THIEVES" WAS ON.

ONCE AGAIN PARTNERED WITH SAM ROBERTSON, JACOB PARROTT KEPT TO ROUGH COUNTRY TO RETURN TO UNION LINES.

THEY WERE CAPTURED THE NEXT MORNING AFTER A DESPERATE FLIGHT.

THEY WERE HANDED OVER TO CONFEDERATE SOLDIERS AT RINGGOLD, GEORGIA.

YOU LADS ARE A WAYS OFF YOUR PATCH.

THEY SAY THEY'S KENTUCKY BOYS. I AIN'T BUYIN' IT.

BEEN ON A TRAIN LATELY?

JACOB PARROTT WAS STRIPPED AND FLOGGED WITH A RAWHIDE STRAP.

HE WAS LASHED OVER ONE HUNDRED TIMES.

WHO WAS THE ENGINEER OF THE EXPEDITION?

HANG HIM!

THREE TIMES THEY STOPPED AND ASKED HIM TO TALK.

BUT PARROTT REMAINED SILENT, NOT OFFERING HIS CAPTORS ANY OF THE INFORMATION THEY SOUGHT.

ALL OF THE RAIDERS WERE SHORTLY CAPTURED. EIGHT OF THE COMPANY WERE TRIED FOR SPYING AND EXECUTED.

THE FIRST TO BE HANGED WAS JAMES ANDREWS, THE MASTERMIND OF THE BOLD OPERATION.

THE RAIDERS PLAN AN ESCAPE WHEN THE OPPORTUNITY ARISES.

PARROTT IS AMONG THOSE RECAPTURED.

THEY WERE RELEASED IN A PRISONER EXCHANGE THE FOLLOWING YEAR.

ALLOW ME TO SHAKE THE HAND OF A TITAN, SIR.

THE NEWLY FREED RAIDERS MEET WITH SECRETARY OF WAR EDWIN STANTON.

HOW WOULD YOU LIKE AN EDUCATION AT WEST POINT?

I'D RATHER GO BACK AND FIGHT THE REBELS AGAIN.

CONGRESS HAS BY A RECENT LAW ORDERED MEDALS TO BE PREPARED ON THIS MODEL.

AND YOUR PARTY SHALL HAVE THE FIRST.

PRIVATE PARROTT MET WITH PRESIDENT ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

I'M THANKFUL YOU HAVE ALL BEEN SPARED.

PARROTT REJOINED THE 33RD OHIO AND ROSE THROUGH THE RANKS.

COMMISSIONED AS A LIEUTENANT, HE WENT ON TO FIGHT AT CHICKAMAUGA, LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN, AND MISSIONARY RIDGE.

JACOB PARROTT PROSPERED AFTER THE WAR, ATTENDING REUNIONS OF THE RAIDERS UNTIL HIS DEATH IN 1908.

HIS BURIAL MARKER NOTES THAT HE WAS HONORED WITH "THE FIRST MEDAL ISSUED FOR DISTINGUISHED BRAVERY."

THE END

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