

# The Red Road

## A Romance of Braddock's Defeat

By HUGH PENDEXTER

Illustrations by Irwin Myers

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WNU Service

## CHAPTER IX—Continued

Of one thing I was positive, and I told to that opinion today: General Braddock was convinced that what ever he won must be achieved by his personal efforts. I did talk with Mr. Shirley, the commander's secretary, who said he would make a verbal report of what I had learned while in Duquesne. Whether he ever did submit the information I brought, I can not say, but I believe that he did because of his fear that the campaign was being mismanaged. I can easily imagine Braddock listening to my important information and giving it a passing consideration, or else ignoring it entirely. That night the army camped at Rush creek, where Scarroway once had a village.

We were now within three easy marches of Duquesne, even though the army moved sluggishly; and I could not perceive any reason why we should not attain our objective. After all, I told Gist and Cromit, sickness and death was ever the price paid when a large body of men, more or less strangers to their environment, pass through a virgin country. I took it for granted that on every level battlefield of Europe sickness stalked every army.

Cromit had not much to say because of the bias furnished by his dream. Gist spoke guardedly and said that while some phases of the campaign were not to his liking still we ought to take the fort now we were committed to the Turtle creek crossing. While we were talking Sir John St. Clair and several officers came along and St. Clair called out to us:

"You men must know this country. You will come along with us to reconnoiter."

We fell in behind them and were soon descending the steep bank that is a characteristic of the country's streams. Nor was the opposite bank any more inviting.

St. Clair studied the bank thoughtfully for a minute and then said to his officers:

"This is very bad. The army has lost heart because of rough travel. If the country beyond is as bad as this it will about finish any spirit that's left." "It will be impossible to take the artillery and wagons any farther than this bank, Sir John, unless we spend much time preparing both banks," said one of the engineers.

"That is very plain," muttered St. Clair. "And that's the devil of it."

"If you can get your guns and wagons across, I can soon take you to a ridge that leads to Duquesne," spoke up Gist. "Once you are on the ridge, you won't have much trouble; and you'll find the country open and not fitted for ambushes, or surprise attacks."

As he was serving as guide to General Braddock and was well known in colonial affairs, his words were listened to. St. Clair suggested he try to find a more favorable crossing. He told them there was not much choice as the banks continued much the same, but he did lead them to where the approach to the creek was less difficult, and pointed out a thinly timbered elevation as being the ridge.

The chief engineering problem was to cross the creek and ascend the opposite bank. One young lieutenant said if he could have the use of a hundred soldiers, he could ease the wagons and guns down one slope and haul them up the other by means of the long cables carried by the army. Another, who had charge of the axmen, guaranteed readily to make runways of logs and thereby greatly expedite the passage of the guns and wagon-train.

Gist called on me to repeat what I already had told Mr. Shirley. I stated if the army would cross the creek and strike straight for Duquesne it could not be attacked with any degree of success even if the Indians could be adduced to attack at all. I quoted Captain Beaujeu to that effect. As they did not cut me short I added, for good measure, that there would be great danger at both crossings of the Monongahela and that it would be practically impossible to avoid an ambush, that Beaujeu already had planned to plant an ambush along the river road.

Sir John seemed to be strongly impressed by my statements, much more so than he would have been had I made a similar talk at Alexandria, or Will's creek. When we returned to the camp, we fully believed the morning's march would remove us from all fear of a masked attack. The conversation among the officers all pointed to this wise maneuver, and our spirits greatly improved.

After Sir John had talked with Braddock, Gist was sent for. Cromit and I left Round Paw holding a powwow with the few Delawares while we went to find the Dinwiddie girl.

Wagoner Morgan was one of the first teamsters to arrive, despite the sad condition of his horses. He informed us that our little friend was sharing a kettle with two soldiers' wives. We soon located her. She had made her sex known to the women but still wore her masculine garb, which was very sensible of her. I took her aside for a little talk and at once observed she was in a sober mood. In fact, she seemed to be more downcast than when we were fighting for our lives in the Frazier cabin. I endeavored to cheer her up, and pointed out how thankful we should be for our deliverance from Pontiac's savages.

"That was the frying-pan," she sighed. "I tell you I feel bad luck mister. They'll jump on us when we pass through the thick woods. Them soldiers don't know any more about Indians than as if they was so many cows."

"You shouldn't say such things. You'll take the heart out of the men if they hear you."

"I ain't a fool even if I come from a family of witches," she angrily retorted. "I'm talking to you, not to the soldiers." Then with instant repentance: "I didn't go for to speak to you like this, mister. But these women here are scared. And yet all they talk about is the silks and fine clothes they'll have when we march into Duquesne. You'll come and talk again with me tomorrow, mister? You've done so much for me."

"I'll talk with you. I've done nothing. You're hitching the cart ahead of the horse. If not for you, I never could have left the Duquesne stockade."

"I tell you it was the Indian who done all that."

"After you had told him of my danger and had planned for us to scale the water-gate and find you waiting with a canoe. I'll see you tomorrow, and the next day; and on the third day I'll see that you get some of the fine cloth—if the French don't burn everything before leaving the fort."

"I feel bad luck, but I'll hope for the best," she muttered. "And don't go into danger, mister."

The last was so incongruous after what we had been through together, and in view of the part I must play as scout, that I laughed and even she smiled, albeit a bit wistfully. She gave me her small hand and eyed me with strange steadiness; then disconcerted me by gravely saying:

"There ain't no shroud around you yet. I'm thinking you'll live through it."

Cromit came up in time to hear the last and anxiously inquired: "What about me, mister?" His mouth was smiling, but his eyes were uneasy.

She hesitated, then told him: "Anyone you come to grips with will die."

With this she abruptly left us and busied herself at the fire.

We went to where the rangers were camping and looked for Colonel Washington, but he had not yet reported to Braddock. I did meet Captain Busby, however. He had lost much of his stoutness and was as lean and hard as a board.

"Webster Brond, by all that's quaint!" he cried on recognizing me. And this time he was eager to clasp my hand. "I've looked for you all along this cursed march and through all the cursed days we've crawled and fiddled away the time. Lord! but I'm glad the Alexandria folks can't see what a rough-looking lot we are. Where have you been and what do you think we'll do next?"

I explained, and he declared my Duquesne trip displayed "damned" rare sportsmanship. I told him the worst of the campaign was over and that we would be free from Indian attacks after we had crossed the creek and taken to the ridge.

"A fight would be welcome," he testily replied. "It's this d-d crawling along, like a worm on a leaf, that takes the gump out of the men. If you'd stayed with us from the time we quit Will's creek, you'd understand how trifles can eat the heart out of a man. Wood-ticks annoy more people than tigers do. Really, we officers of the Virginians have given up our luggage animals until we scarcely have anything left except what we have on our backs. If there isn't, I'll never forgive the French. I suppose the folks back home are thinking tonight that we're already in Duquesne."

There was no "back home" for me. No folks to learn how I had fared; and I had nothing to say. He ran on: "I've sent word to Josephine by every express, but probably she hasn't received one out of five of my letters. I told her I hadn't seen you. So you don't expect we'll be attacked by the red devils on our way to the fort?"

"Not if we follow the ridge road. Yes, if we follow the river road."

"Then I'm glad it's the ridge. Remember, Web, how we used to play at fighting Indians and always planned to run into an ambush and make a very narrow escape? Lord, that seems a million years ago. We didn't want

to be attacked by the Indians, did we? Well, now we're going to be attacked by the Indians, aren't we?"

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any open ridge marching in those days. Nothing but bloody fighting in the shrubbery at the foot of the Carlye gardens. And how we used to rescue fair maidens! How Joe would squeal, she was that nervous; and how cool and collected the Haze girls always were! Joe was more fun—she felt her part more. Web, our hearts were higher then than now. Time has made cowards of us—of me, anyway. And who would have believed that we would be here together like this on the shore of the d-d creek! Thank God that Joe isn't here to be rescued!"

"Amen to that!" And I wished and wished that the witch-girl was as safe as Josephine of old Alexandria.

He urged me to share mess with him and several others from the home town, but I was uneasy and preferred to take a piece of meat from the rangers' fire and to prowling deep in the woods for fresh signs until the darkness drove me in.

When the drums beat the long march on the morning of the seventh I turned out to assist in getting the wagons across the creek. But what was my amazement to learn that the course had been changed during the night's council, and that St. Clair had finally decided it would be best for the army to swing clear of the rugged country entirely and to march direct for the Monongahela.

This would necessitate crossing at a point where the river bends to the north, and after marching across the bend, to recross just below the mouth of Turtle creek. This shift in plans was due to the excellent fords and their gently sloping banks. There would be no difficulty in crossing the guns and wagons. Destiny was taking the Dinwiddie girl and me back to the Frazier cabin.

I hunted up the Onondaga and found him freshly painted for war and softly reminding his friends that he was a man of the Wolf clan. After finishing his chanting he cried out to me:

"Yo-hah! They say some very brave men will die before two more sleeps. White brother. They say it is not good for men to grow old until they find all meat tough."

"The French will die bravely if they fight," I agreed.

"They say the French will not die alone. It will be a very strong fight."

"There will be no fight unless Beaujeu can drive his Indians into making a surprise attack."

"There will be a fight," he gravely assured me. "Many axes will be covered with new paint (blood). They say the English from over the stinking water do not know how to fight."

"The Delawares have told you that. They talk like old women."

"A wolf howled in the night to the Wolf man," he corrected. "The talk of our nephews, the Len-Lenapoes, goes by Round Paw's ears without entering. Let the witch-woman change herself into a bird and fly away."

"Let my red brother keep that talk shut up in his bag," I warned, secretly alarmed by his reference to the Dinwiddie girl. For should there be a fight with the fort Indians I feared she would refuse to hide in a wagon until it was over; and it did seem a cruel shame that after escaping from Frazier's cabin she should run the risk of being hideously killed within gunshot of it.

"Let her turn herself into a bird and fly back to the Susquehanna," he called after me.

I hastened on, eager to find the girl and persuade her to stay well back among the wagons. Even if we were ambushed and well-blooded she would be safe at the rear of the line. The savages could never break through even though they should punish the head of the army.

She greeted me shyly and was strangely willing to do as I asked. I was surprised and pleased with her acquiescence; for I knew she had but little thought for her own safety. There was, however, a small condition attached to her promise; and she expressed it thus:

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

Good Hard Sense in Old Bantu's Comment.

Natives of the jungles of Africa are likely to be of a philosophical turn of mind as is illustrated by the story of an old Bantu negro told by Dan Crawford, who spent most of his life as a missionary in the wilds of the Dark Continent. "I have lived so long in the long grass that I think like the blacks, and I never talk of Western civilization," Crawford told Seton Tompkins, the naturalist and writer.

"But just when I was coming home and was thinking perhaps tenderly of old scenes and faces, I did one night swank a bit about civilization to an old Bantu, who was sitting with me in my hut. I told him I was going to my own country where they had ships that went under the water, ships that went on the water, and still more ships that flew over the water. I told him that in English houses you turn a tap and the water flows, touched a button and the room was flooded with light—in fact I gave him a good glowing description of all the alleged triumphs of civilization. When I had catalogued as much as I could remember I stopped and waited for the old negro to show his surprise. But he just said:

"Is that all, Mr. Crawford?"

"Yes, I think it is," I replied.

"Then very slowly and gravely the old Bantu said:

"Well, Mr. Crawford, to be better off is not always to be better."—Detroit News.

Famous Catacombs

The catacombs of Paris are vast excavations extending under the city of Paris. Formerly subterranean quarries which furnished the building material for the city. In the latter part of the Eighteenth century one portion of the city began to sink, and it was necessary to strengthen the roof of the quarries with masonry. In 1787 the catacombs were arranged to contain the bodies removed from other burying grounds, and it is estimated that upward of six million bodies are now preserved in them. The bones are arranged in varied designs along the sides of the galleries.

Fair Enough

You can't choose your ancestors, but that's fair enough. They probably wouldn't have chosen you.—El Dorado Tribune.

France is to have its first motorist's camp, in the French Alps.

## LEADING RADIO PROGRAMS

(Time given is Eastern Standard; subtract one hour for Central and two hours for Mountain time.)

### N. B. C. RED NETWORK

Sunday, October 28.

1:30 p. m. United Radio Corp.  
6:00 p. m. Stetson Parade.  
7:00 p. m. Lehigh Coal & Nav. Co.  
7:30 p. m. Maj. Bowes' Family Party.  
9:00 p. m. David Lawrence.  
9:15 p. m. Atwater Kent.

### N. B. C. BLUE NETWORK

2:00 p. m. Roxy Stroll.  
6:30 p. m. Anglo Persians.  
8:15 p. m. Collier's Radio Hour.

### N. B. C. RED NETWORK

Monday, October 29.

7:00 a. m. Tower Health Exercises.  
11:15 a. m. Radio Household Inst.  
7:00 p. m. Mutual Savings Inst.  
9:30 p. m. General Motors Family Party.

10:00 p. m. The Cabin Door.

### N. B. C. BLUE NETWORK

10:00 a. m. Copeland Hour.  
9:30 p. m. Roxy and His Gang.  
7:00 p. m. Riverside Hour.  
9:30 p. m. Real Folks.

### N. B. C. BLUE NETWORK

11:00 p. m. Slumber Music.

### N. B. C. RED NETWORK

Tuesday, October 30.

7:00 a. m. Tower Health Exercises.  
11:15 a. m. Radio Household Institute.  
8:30 p. m. Seiberling Singers.  
9:00 p. m. Eveready Hour.

10:00 p. m. Cliquet Club Eskimos.

### N. B. C. BLUE NETWORK

10:00 a. m. Copeland Hour.  
9:30 p. m. Dutch Master Minstrels.  
11:00 p. m. Slumber Music.

### N. B. C. RED NETWORK

Wednesday, October 31.

7:00 a. m. Tower Health Exercises.  
11:15 a. m. Radio Household Institute.  
5:00 p. m. Vogue and The Mode.  
8:00 p. m. Am. Mag. & Woman's Home Companion Hour.

9:00 p. m. Ipana Troubadours.  
9:30 p. m. Palmolive Hour.

### N. B. C. BLUE NETWORK

10:00 a. m. Copeland Hour.  
7:00 p. m. Jeddio Highlanders.  
8:30 p. m. Sylvania Foresters.

10:00 p. m. Chicago Civic Opera.  
11:00 p. m. Slumber Music.

### N. B. C. RED NETWORK

Thursday, November 1.

7:00 a. m. Tower Health Exercises.  
11:15 a. m. Radio Household Institute.  
7:30 p. m. Coward Comfort Hour.  
10:00 p. m. Halsey Stuart.

### N. B. C. BLUE NETWORK

10:00 a. m. Copeland Hour.  
8:00 p. m. Champion Sparkers.  
9:30 p. m. Maxwell House Hour.  
10:00 p. m. Michellin Hour.

### N. B. C. RED NETWORK

Friday, November 2.

7:00 a. m. Tower Health Exercises.  
11:15 a. m. Radio Household Institute.  
7:00 p. m. Wonder Hour.  
7:30 p. m. Happiness Candy Stores.  
8:00 p. m. Cities Service Hour.

### N. B. C. BLUE NETWORK

11:00 a. m. Damosch Educational.  
7:00 p. m. Interwoven Stocking Co.  
7:30 p. m. Dixies Circus.  
8:30 p. m. Armstrong Quakers.  
9:00 p. m. Wrigley Review.

### N. B. C. RED NETWORK

Saturday, November 3.

7:00 a. m. Tower Health Exercises.  
10:15 a. m. Radio Household Institute.  
1:45 p. m. Dartmouth-Yale Football Game.

### N. B. C. BLUE NETWORK

1:45 p. m. Ohio-Princeton Football Game.  
8:30 p. m. Godfrey Ludlow.  
9:00 p. m. Philco Hour.

The following is a list of stations carrying the above programs:

National Broadcasting Company Red Network: WEA, New York; WEEI, Boston; WTIC, Hartford; WJAR, Providence; WTAC, Worcester; WSH, Portland, Maine; WLIT and WFL, Philadelphia; WRC, Washington; WGY, Schenectady; WGR, Buffalo; WCAE, Pittsburgh; WTAM and WRAR, Cleveland; WWJ, Detroit; WSAI, Cincinnati; WGN and WLIR, Chicago; KSD, St. Louis; WOC, Dubuque; WHO, Des Moines; WOV, Omaha; WDAF, Kansas City; WCCO, Winona, Minneapolis-St. Paul; WTMJ, Milwaukee; KOA, Denver; WHAS, Louisville; WSM, Nashville; WMC, Memphis; WSE, Atlanta; WBT, Charlotte; KVOO, Tulsa; WFAA, Dallas; KPRC, Houston; WOAI, San Antonio; WBAP, Ft. Worth; WJAX, Jacksonville.

National Broadcasting Company Blue Network: WJZ, New York; WRZA, Boston; WBZ, Springfield; WBAL, Baltimore; WHAM, Rochester; KDKA, Pittsburgh; WJIB, Detroit; WLW, Cincinnati; KYW and WERB, Chicago; KWK, St. Louis; WREN, Kansas City; WCVB, Winona, Minneapolis-St. Paul; WTMJ, Milwaukee; KOA, Denver; WHAS, Louisville; WSM, Nashville; WMC, Memphis; WSE, Atlanta; WBT, Charlotte; KVOO, Tulsa; WFAA, Dallas; KPRC, Houston; WOAI, San Antonio; WBAP, Ft. Worth; WRVA, Richmond; WJAX, Jacksonville.

What type of radio program does the farmer prefer? The National Broadcasting company is conducting a nationwide survey of the farm audience to find out. Frank E. Mullen, who directs the agricultural activities of the NBC, states that the survey will be made in every state of the nation. It is hoped to reveal what the farmer likes to hear. Another phase of the inquiry is a study of the economic and utilitarian value of the radio set to the ruralist.

## Farm Inventory Should Be Made

Best Time Usually Is First of Year; How to Set Values and Depreciation.

The best time to take a farm inventory is when there is the least to figure. For general crop and stock farms, this is usually some time between January 1 and the time when spring work begins, says the State College of Agriculture at Ithaca, N. Y. Probably the best time to take an inventory on a poultry farm is just after the pullets are put into winter quarters. Farmers fortunate enough to have worry about income taxes should take their inventories on January 1. There is no set date for taking an inventory; any convenient time will do. It should, of course, be taken on approximately the same date each year.

**Estimating Values.** In placing values on stock and machinery, a good general guide is to estimate the price the animal or machine would bring providing the owner had a reasonable length of time to dispose of it. This figure will usually be about the price one would have to pay for something just as good at a well-attended farm auction.

There is no set rule for figuring depreciation on machinery. It should be remembered that depreciation is much higher on new inventions than on standard pieces of farm equipment. Tractors and harvesters usually depreciate faster than wagons and plows. The rate of depreciation on a miscellaneous lot of farm machinery, some old and some new, usually averages about 10 per cent of its inventory value of the previous year. However, because the depreciation varies on all farms, a good rule to follow is to value machinery at about the price it would bring at a well-attended farm auction.

**Three Things Needed.** While there are only three things necessary for taking a farm inventory—paper, pencil and the inclination—a fourth one will help. This is a copy of the Cornell inventory record book called "How to Take a Farm Inventory and Make a Credit Statement." This book contains simple but complete directions for taking an inven-

tory and for making out a credit statement, together with space for recording two years' inventories. Any farmer who wishes to take an inventory can get a free copy of this booklet by writing to the college of agriculture at Ithaca, N. Y.

### Only Alfalfa Seed Now

Verified by Government

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

Changes in the seed origin-verification service of the bureau of agricultural economics which limit the service to alfalfa seed but which also extend the service so as to cover practically all commercially handled alfalfa seed have been announced by the United States Department of Agriculture.

Practically all large alfalfa seed handlers have voluntarily enrolled with the bureau as verified-origin alfalfa seed dealers. Last year 17,000,000 pounds of alfalfa seed were verified as to origin. During that period only a part of the alfalfa seed handled commercially was covered by the service. It is expected that United States verified-origin seed certificates will be attached to more than 40,000,000 pounds of alfalfa seed this year.

The first year's operation of the service, according to the bureau's seed marketing specialists, has demonstrated fully the effectiveness of the supervision by federal agencies in giving adequate protection to the certificates issued, so that now most dealers and buyers of seed recognize the reliability of the service and its value to both producers and consumers of seed.

### Quality of Milk

Admittedly the quality of milk cannot be modified by making variations in the proportion of carbohydrate to protein. Notwithstanding the best grade of milk is produced from cows which are in good healthy condition resulting from the use of a well-proportioned grain mixture. Silage cannot be excelled as a source of succulence, and shredded fodder supplemented with clover or alfalfa hay is clearly the best roughage; the clover hay to supply the ash and protein, the cut fodder to supply bulk.

## KIND OF FARMING DETERMINES HOW TO CARRY ON PROFITABLY

Farmer Must Adopt Type of Work Which Pays.

"Some farmers do not make money because they do not carry on the right kind of business on their farms. One of the first things a farmer must do if he expects to make a fair labor income is to determine what type of farming pays best in his locality," says the rural economics department of the Ohio State university in an analysis of the accounts of a group of farms in counties lying along the Ohio river in southwestern Ohio.

In comparing the five farms