

GRAPHIC NOVEL

America's Citizen Soldiers



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AUGUST, 1776. BROOKLYN, NEW YORK



GEORGE WASHINGTON'S CONTINENTAL ARMY IS TRAPPED ON LONG ISLAND. THE BRITISH FLEET IS IN THE HARBOR, WAITING FOR THE WIND TO CHANGE DIRECTION SO THAT THEY CAN ENCIRCLE THE ISLAND AND PREVENT WASHINGTON'S ESCAPE. THOUSANDS OF BRITISH AND HESSIAN SOLDIERS ARE MARCHING TOWARDS WASHINGTON'S TROOPS.

GENERAL WASHINGTON KNOWS HE IS OUTNUMBERED AND MUST RETREAT, OR HIS ARMY WILL BE DESTROYED. THERE IS ONLY ONE THING TO DO...



THE BRITISH ARE CLOSE, SIR. WE DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME, AND BAD WEATHER IS MOVING IN.



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IF GENERAL HOWE AND HIS REDCOATS DEFEAT US HERE, THE REVOLUTION IS OVER. THEY WILL KILL OR CAPTURE US ALL.



FIND GENERAL GLOVER AND ASK HIM TO REPORT AT ONCE.

HOW CAN GENERAL GLOVER HELP?

THE MEN IN JOHN GLOVER'S MARBLEHEADERS REGIMENT ARE ALL SEAMEN BY TRADE. THEY ARE TOUGH AND WELL-DISCIPLINED. WE NEED THEM TO FERRY US ACROSS THE EAST RIVER TONIGHT, UNDER THE COVER OF DARKNESS AND THE APPROACHING STORM.



IT HAS TO BE.

ALL OF US! BUT, SIR, WE HAVE OVER 9000 MEN TO TRANSPORT, PLUS THEIR EQUIPMENT, THE CANNON, AND THE HORSES. IS IT POSSIBLE?

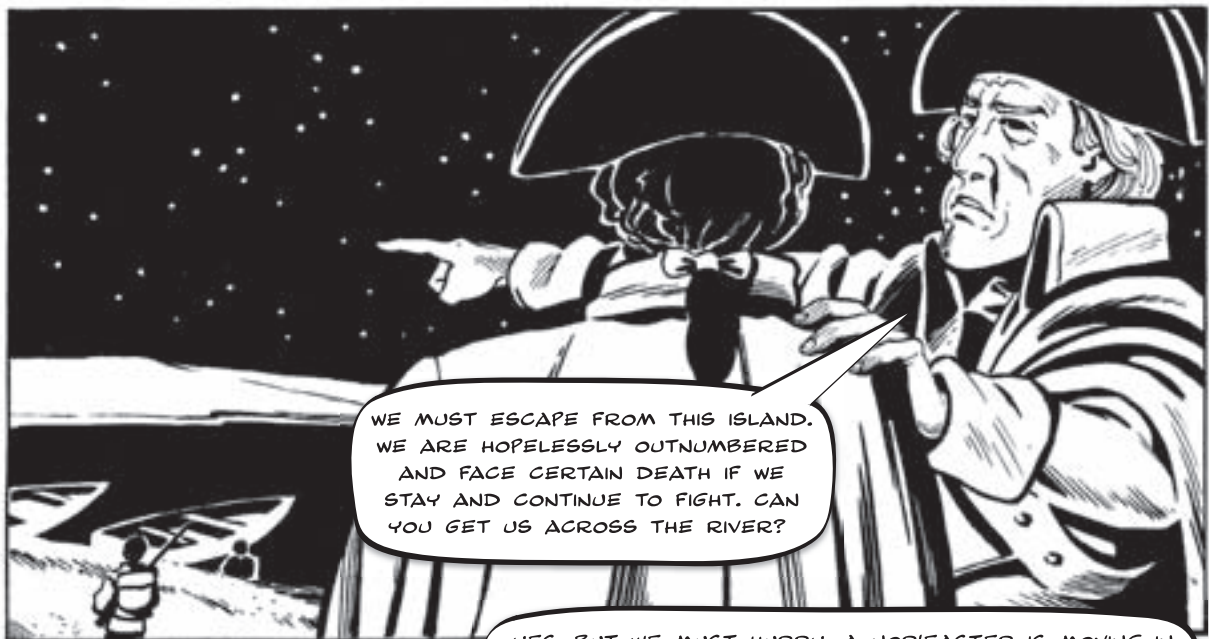
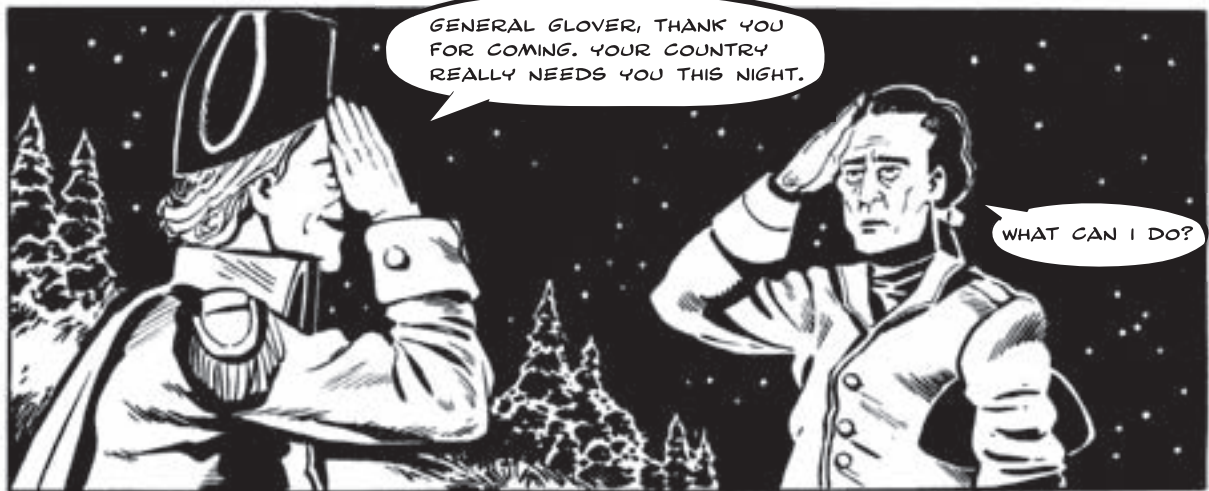
WITH FIGHTING IN THE DISTANCE, THE MESSENGER SETS OFF TO FIND GENERAL GLOVER AND HIS REGIMENT.



I MUST HURRY, DANGER IS EVERYWHERE. AH, THERE THEY ARE!



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WE MUST BE VERY QUIET. IF THE REDCOATS CATCH US RETREATING THEY WILL CUT US TO RIBBONS. IF YOU CAN SEND MESSENGERS AND GATHER OUR SOLDIERS, MY MEN AND I WILL TAKE CARE OF EVERYTHING ELSE.

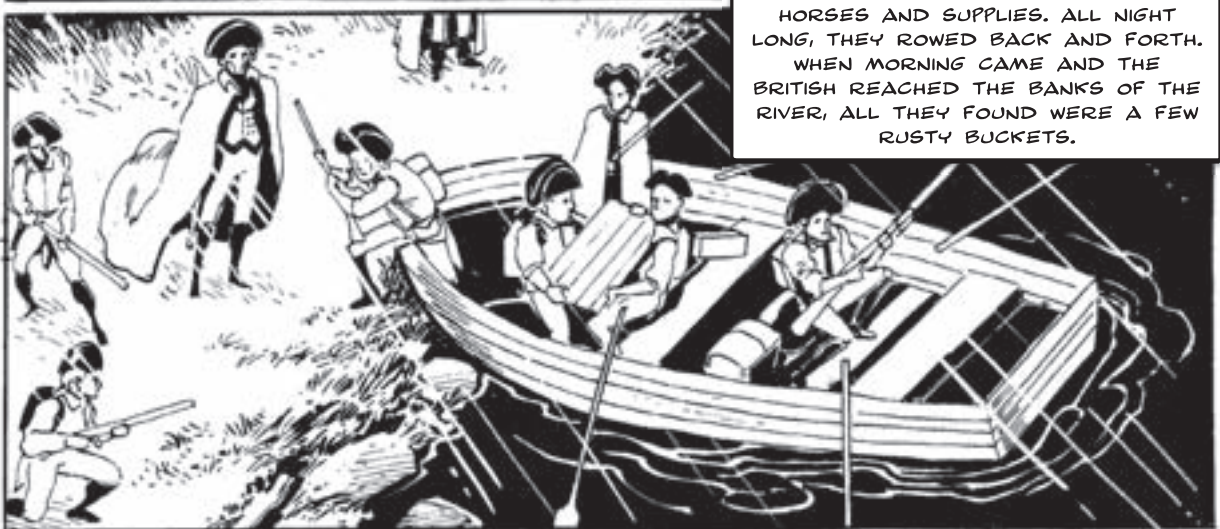


MESSENGERS FAN OUT TO SPREAD THE WORD AS WASHINGTON'S ARMY ASSEMBLES ON THE BANKS OF THE EAST RIVER, READY FOR EVACUATION.

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SO ALL THROUGH THE NIGHT, IN HEAVY RAIN AND STRONG WINDS, GENERAL GLOVER'S MARBLEHEADERS REGIMENT ROWED WASHINGTON'S ARMY ACROSS THE EAST RIVER, SO THEY COULD ESCAPE TO FIGHT AGAIN ANOTHER DAY.



THEY ROWED MEN AND CANNON, HORSES AND SUPPLIES. ALL NIGHT LONG, THEY ROWED BACK AND FORTH. WHEN MORNING CAME AND THE BRITISH REACHED THE BANKS OF THE RIVER, ALL THEY FOUND WERE A FEW RUSTY BUCKETS.



JUST IN TIME.

THE BRITISH TROOPS CONTINUED TO ADVANCE, BUT WASHINGTON WAS ABLE TO OUTFRAN THEM AND REGROUP. A FEW MONTHS LATER, ON CHRISTMAS NIGHT, GENERAL GLOVER AND HIS MEN ONCE AGAIN PLAYED A MAJOR ROLE IN THE WAR. THEY FERRIED WASHINGTON AND 2400 SOLDIERS ACROSS THE ICE-FILLED DELAWARE RIVER FOR A SURPRISE ATTACK ON THE BRITISH AND HESSIANS CAMPED IN TRENTON, NJ. THE ATTACK WAS A MAJOR SUCCESS.



WITHOUT YOU AND YOUR MEN, I AM AFRAID THE REVOLUTION WOULD BE OVER. THIS COUNTRY OWES YOU A DEBT OF GRATITUDE.

NOT AT ALL, SIR. WE WERE JUST DOING OUR DUTY. AS CITIZENS OF THIS NEW COUNTRY, IT IS PART OF OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO SERVE IN ANY WAY WE CAN. WHEN THIS WAR IS OVER, WE WILL RETURN TO OUR JOBS AND FAMILIES. BUT UNTIL THEN, THE MARBLEHEADERS AND I WILL ALWAYS BE READY, SIR.

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