

GREAT ILLUSTRATED CLASSICS

**THE LAST OF
THE MOHICANS**

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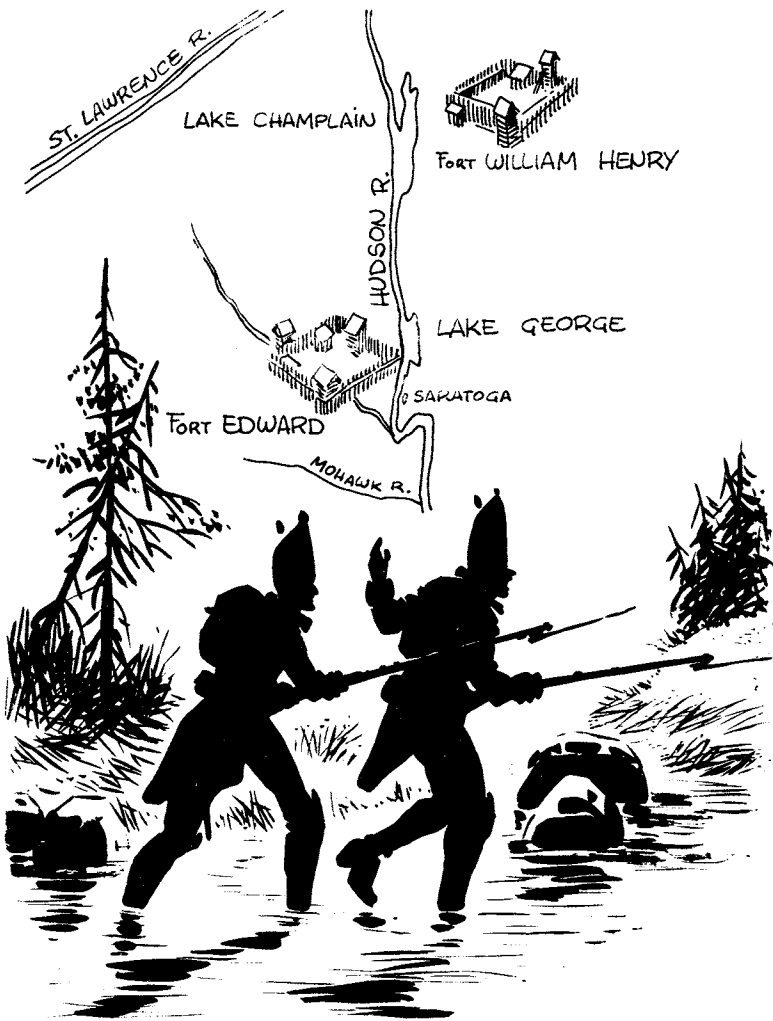
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A War in the New World

CHAPTER 1

The Long Journey Begins

Our story opens on a hot July day in 1757. It was the third year of the French and Indian War—a war England and France waged for the possession of New World. Both countries were destined to lose that territory, known then as the thirteen colonies.

The setting is upper New York State near the head-waters, or source, of the Hudson River and nearby Lake George and Lake Champlain. Here, in these lush green forests, most of the battles were fought.

The hardy colonists and the trained English soldiers had to conquer the wilderness

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together before they could meet the French and their Indian allies in battle. But in time, every raging river and rugged mountain pass had been conquered by these newcomers.

Both sides erected forts at strategic points along the battle route, and the surrounding woods were alive with men. The sounds of their marching music rang throughout the rocky glens.

The recent losses of Edward Braddock, the British general, had greatly lowered the colonists' and the soldiers' morale. To make matters worse, countless massacres by barbarous Indians were still vivid in the minds of the frightened settlers. Even the bravest of settlers and soldiers began to doubt the outcome of the war they were fighting.

Therefore, when news reached Fort Edward, south of the fighting, that the French General Montcalm had been seen moving down Lake Champlain with a large army, anxiety mounted among the British and



A British Fort Along the Battle Route