GREAT ILLUSTRATED CLASSICS

THE RED BADGE OF COURAGE

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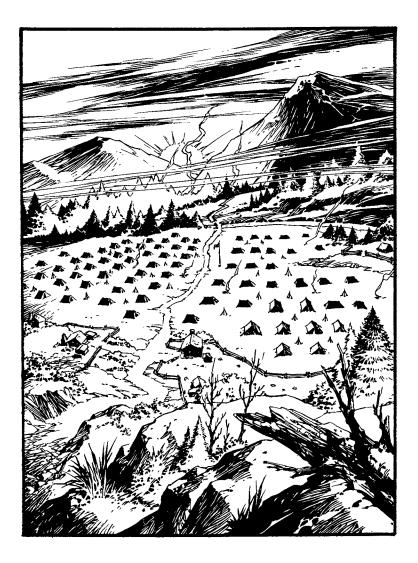
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A Union Camp in Virginia

CHAPTER 1

Endless Waiting, Endless Drilling

It was dawn on a spring morning in 1863, and the young Union soldiers of the 304th Regiment were just waking up. Most of the 304th were farm boys from New York State who had enlisted in the army of the North. Now, they were camped in rough log huts and tents on a hillside somewhere in northern Virginia.

From their position, they could see the wooded hills opposite them. Rising above the distant trees were scattered puffs of smoke, the remains of the Confederate campfires

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that had been burning throughout the night.

For months, the raw troops of the 304th had been at this camp. They had seen no fighting and had only heard reports of great battles between the Union and Confederate armies in this Civil War.

By now, the men were disappointed, frustrated, and bored. They had spent the war drilling endlessly on any open field their lieutenant could find and waiting endlessly for orders to go into battle.

Stretching and yawning as they came out of their tent, Henry Fleming and Tom Wilson, two close friends, headed for the campfire. The regiment's cook was pouring hot coffee into tin cups for the soldiers gathered around him. In between pouring, he was stirring the men's breakfast in a big black pot that was suspended over the fire.

Once breakfast was over, the men scattered about the camp, each looking for ways to keep busy and make the waiting less boring.



Two Close Friends Wake Up.