

HOLTON OF THE NAVY

A STORY OF THE FREEING OF CUBA

By Lawrence Perry
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Illustrations by Ellsworth Young



SYNOPSIS.

Lieutenant Holton is detached from his command in the navy at the outset of the Spanish-American war and assigned to important secret service duty. While dining at a Washington hotel he detects a waiter in the act of robbing a beautiful young lady. She thanks him for his service and gives her name as Miss La Tossa, a Cuban patriot. Later he meets her at a ball. A secret service man warns Holton that the girl is a spy. Miss La Tossa leaves for her home in Cuba. Holton is ordered to follow her. They meet on the Tampa train. Miss La Tossa tells Holton she is a Cuban spy and expresses doubt regarding the sincerity of the United States. Holton is ordered to remain at Tampa to guard the troop transports. He saves the transports from destruction at the hands of dynamiters and reports to Admiral Sampson for further duty. Holton is sent to General Garcia's command in the guise of a newspaper correspondent to investigate Cuban plots against the American troops and to learn the plans of the Spanish navy. He detects a trusted Cuban leader in the work of fomenting trouble among the Cubans in the interests of the Spaniards. Holton is seized by friends of the spy and later ordered executed as a spy. He escapes and saves the American troops from falling into a Spanish ambush. He learns from General Garcia that the spy is Jose Cesnola, one of the most trusted leaders. Holton takes part in the battle at San Juan. Disguised as a Spanish soldier he enters Santiago, goes at night to the home of Miss La Tossa, where he overhears a discussion of the Spanish plans for leading army and navy commanders. He learns that the Spanish fleet will leave the harbor at Santiago on July 2. Holton escapes and arrives in sight of the American fleet in time to see the admiral's flagship sail away. After firing signals he is answered by the Brooklyn. He warns Schley of the intentions of the Spanish fleet and witnesses the destruction and capture of the enemy's vessels. Holton learns that Shafter has received a message from President McKinley declaring that the war was instituted for the sole purpose of freeing Cuba. He learns that a meeting of disaffected Cubans is to be held that night to plot against the American army. He gives Miss La Tossa the president's message. He spies on the meeting and hears Cesnola attempt to inflame the Cubans against the Americans. Miss La Tossa denounces Cesnola and reads McKinley's message.

Cesnola put his watch in his pocket and advanced to the couple. He beckoned to two men.
"Take her away from this man. He must stand alone," he said.

CHAPTER XV.

A Sweet Parting.

The girl screamed and threw her arms about Holton's neck. There was no mistaking the intentions of Cesnola, and neither was there any possibility of misunderstanding the hold which the spy had gained over these men.

Holton, pale but determined, sought to disengage the girl's hands, while the men dragged gently at her arms. At this juncture a stern voice arose above the confusion.

"Men, put up your weapons. What is this?"

General Garcia, accompanied by several of his staff, broke through the group of Cubans and stopped near the little knot about Holton and the girl.

"Garcia!" A cheer arose, but the general stifled it with his hand.

"Men," he said, "I have been a witness of your deliberations. I can assure you that your fusillade will be unnecessary, because it will not be heeded. Your plot, I beg to assure you, has failed, Senor Cesnola."

He beckoned two of his staff, who advanced and placed their hands upon the spy's shoulders. He was trembling now, and words failed his parched tongue.

The general waved his hand imperiously.

"You gentlemen will return to your commands. Every one of you. Mr. Holton, you will go back to your camp—I am glad to have been of service to you. Miss La Tossa will return to her estate—and remain there. As for you"—he faced Cesnola—"I shall deal with you tomorrow. Take him to my headquarters and let him be closely confined."

Several soldiers stepped forward and hastily bound the spy's arms. Miss La Tossa ran up and kissed the general on the cheek. He patted her shoulder with paternal affection. Then, calling two of his men, he directed them to escort the girl through the secret trail to her father's estate.

When Holton awoke Garcia had left the tent, but he soon returned, and with a smile asked his guest how he had slept. Holton thanked him, and assured him his slumber had been sound.

As they talked thus an officer appeared, and, saluting, addressed Garcia formally.

"The prisoner has no complaint to make of your decision, but asks your leniency in one respect."

"In what respect?" asked the general.

"He asks that he may be shot instead of hanged."

Garcia reflected a moment. Then he made a little gesture.

"Very well," he decided at length. The officer saluted and walked hastily away.

"Who was the prisoner?" asked Holton.

"Jose Cesnola," was the reply. Hardly had he spoken when the whiplike report of several rifles broke the silence of this beautiful sunlit morning. Garcia lowered his head. Holton looked vacantly into space.

And so, he thought, has passed the waiter of the New Willard.

Holton's return to the American trenches was signalized by an honor that brought adequate reward, with interest, for all that he had gone through. This was a dispatch for him from the secretary of the navy announcing his advancement ten numbers for meritorious service at Tampa, and containing also information that congress had voted him the congressional medal of honor for gallantry in notifying the North Atlantic squadron of the intentions of Cervera's squadron.

An event of the next day was the return of Hobson from Santiago, in company with six sailors who had been captured with him. Holton pressed forward and joined in the cheers of the regulars as this quiet-faced young man rode through their ranks on the way to Siboney after an imprisonment of more than five weeks.

He had performed a deed of signal gallantry, a deed which will live as long as the annals of the American navy live, and as the years go, will grow only the brighter.

The days went on. It now seemed assured that the surrender was but a matter of short time, and Holton spent the period in enjoying a well-earned rest.

At length, on July 15, General Toral and his staff rode out to San Juan to where General Shafter and General Miles and their staffs awaited him under the famous tree. The meeting was very picturesque, and dignity marked the demeanor of all concerned. After a long discussion General Toral and his officers turned and rode toward the city, and the American en-

trails returned to their lines. The surrender of Santiago was assured. The men were jubilant, but many were beginning to succumb to the physical effects of their life in the wet trenches.

On the 17th of July, General Shafter, his staff, brigade commander, and a goodly body of troops left the trenches and, with hands playing and flags flying, marched up the trail leading into Santiago, where the surrender took place before the two armies. Then the march continued into the city.

The Spanish soldiers, some twenty-two thousand men (Holton had underestimated their number), were to be shipped to Spain, and nothing remained to be done but to assume the reins of military government and set things in order. One of the first acts of the Americans was to release political prisoners from confinement, and then an evening fell the lights were lighted, the bands played in the patio of the palace, the Venus restaurant overflowed with American officers, the streets were crowded with men, women and children.

Meanwhile what were the Cubans doing? Many of them had their homes in Santiago and naturally they were anxious to return to them, and had fully expected to do so. Now by official mandate of the Americans they were barred from the gates.

Holton knew enough of the fiery temper of these men to realize that Garcia and the other commanding officers must sway great authority over their soldiers if they were to hold them in leash under such a situation as this.

He, of course, had no fears that Shafter would be unable to quell an outbreak, but at the same time if one occurred it would involve a complication not to be desired.

That the Cubans in the camps of Garcia and Castillo were openly talking of an uprising was known to every one, and not even Garcia's assurances that he could keep them in hand quieted the fears of the more thoughtful among the officers. Yet there was no inclination to allow them to enter the city, the fear that they would turn loose upon the unarmed Spaniards still being potent.

In the absence of direct orders, Holton hardly knew what to do. His anxiety as to the outcome of the present predicament he kept to himself, not wishing to fill Washington with vague and perhaps causeless alarms.

Late on the morning of the day following the surrender he mounted a horse loaned him by a cavalry officer and set out once more along the Santiago highway for the La Tossa estate.

Soon he reached the lodge and gate which he had entered some nights before. Up the road he cantered, and at length turned into the driveway leading to the La Tossa demesne. Two horses were tied to posts in front of the veranda, but the house itself was not thrown open to the morning air, the shutters being closed.

Something about the atmosphere of the building caused Holton to alight from his horse at a bend in the drive. Throwing the reins about the branch of a tree, he made his way through the underbrush, until looking through the foliage he could see the front of the house.

Here he waited. Why he knew not. What had come over him? Something inside was dampening the ardor with which he had set out on this important journey, and placing his spirits under a pall of utterly unreasonable foreboding. An incubus of doubt, almost of dread, settled upon him, and try as he would he could not shake it off.

And yet what nonsense! Here in the broad light of this beautiful, scintillating day to feel emotions which might be natural to a schoolgirl when alone in the dark! He could not understand it at all. But neither could he dissipate the spell.

At length, with sudden resolution, he came out of his hiding-place, mounted his horse and rode boldly up the driveway. He alighted at the door step, tethered his steed alongside the two other ponies, and mounting the steps, rang the bell, the echoes of which he could hear jangling and clattering throughout the house.

Awaiting a reply to his summons for some time, and receiving none, he pulled the bell again, now with irritable energy. Almost on the instant the door was flung open and Miss La Tossa, still in her hunting suit, and accompanied by Pierre, stood before him.

She looked at him with cold, inquiring eyes, and Holton with a start stopped short.

"Why—why—" His voice failed him. As the girl still regarded him with cold, vacuous eyes, Holton flushed angrily.

He drew himself up very stiffly. "I—I beg pardon," he said. "I fear I—I came here under some sort of a misunderstanding."

A gleam of an expression crossed the girl's face. "Pierre," she remarked to her attendant, who stood rigidly at her side, "this is the gentleman we met near Sevilla, is it not?"

Pierre glanced at Holton, his face filled with an expression of savage hatred.

"It is, senorita," he replied. "Yes, we met this gentleman at Sevilla, Pierre, and he said several things. Did he not, Pierre?"

"Yes, senorita."

"And, Pierre, what did he say?"

"He said that the Americans were to remain faithful to their promise, and that Cuba, after Santiago was captured, was to be placed in the control of the Cuban army."

"Yes," the Cuban girl had not glanced at Holton, who stood listening, rigid and angry.

"Yes, Pierre," she repeated; "and so Santiago was captured by the Americans—and the Cubans. And did the Americans keep their promise, that sacred promise?"

"No, they did not, senorita. They refused to permit the Cubans to enter the city, their own city, to attend the surrender."

"Yes, and so, Pierre, when this American officer told us our rights would be observed, he did not say what was true. Did he?"

"No, senorita. He lied."

As Holton leaped forward with an exclamation, the girl raised her hand. "One moment, please. I am now going to speak to you direct. You are beneath my contempt. As a spy, I respect all that you did, save one thing. As a spy you did your duty. You violated the Spanish lines, you tried into the affairs of our army, and you won the love and the friendship of General Garcia. All these things were your duty. But all this did not satisfy you. No. In addition, you set out to win my love."

She buried her face in her hands and a dry sob escaped her.

"You tried to win my love—" She glanced up at him with fearless eyes. "And you did win my love. You won it unreservedly. It was yours to take. But now I know that it was all the part of mockery; that the love you pretended to offer was unreal; that it was but part and parcel of the game you were playing."

Holton, who had been silent, thinking it better that he should hear all before replying, could stand no more. He raised his hand.

"Stop!" he cried with a voice of thunder. "Do you know what you are saying?"

"Yes, I do." She leaned on Pierre's arm. "Take me away, Pierre."

"One minute, Pierre." Holton's voice was low and tense. "Before you go, Miss La Tossa, I wish to tell you something. Anything I have said to you in the past I stand by. The Americans are going to relinquish this country to the Cubans—but that is a matter neither here nor there. Your manner is insulting and unfair, Miss La Tossa. I came here today with gladness in my heart."

"With deceit—with more lies!" she interrupted dramatically. "As a spy, I bow to you. You are very clever."

Holton straightened, his face white and drawn. He looked at her for a moment, searching her every feature. Something in his expression quieted her, and she pointed her hand at him.

"Listen," she said. "Last night my brother went into Santiago with a letter to you from me. He arrived at your quarters. Then he was seized and thrown out of the city for violating the order of your general that Cubans remain at a distance. Perhaps you can explain why."

"I cannot. I never received the letter."

She shook her head.

"All that is very little matter," she continued. "That letter contained what I have now said to you. And it said this besides: That the enemies of my country are my enemies, and that it is clear that no greater enemy to Cuba than the United States ever existed."

She bowed and turned away.

Holton stood for a moment watching her, and then, without a word, faced abruptly about and walked toward his horse.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

FIRES DUE TO CARELESSNESS

Statement of Deputy State Marshal Morgan at Chester

PREVENTION THE REMEDY

Necessary for Men to Form Companies for Safety of Their Own Families and of Their Neighbors—Must Risk Lives.

(Special Harrisburg Correspondence.)

Harrisburg.—At the monthly meeting of the Delaware County Fireman's Association, held in the headquarters of the Moyamensing Hook and Ladder Company here, Deputy State Fire Marshal J. William Morgan, of this city, spoke on the prevention of fires. "So long as 50 per cent. of the fires which occur throughout the country are caused by carelessness," he said, "just so long will it be necessary for men to band themselves together into companies such as you are for the protection of not only your own families, but also of your neighbors, and while you give of your time freely and risk your lives continuously, it probably often occurs that your efforts remain unappreciated and unrewarded by even the slightest thanks or the gratitude whom you have served. The agitation for fire prevention is nation wide, and extraordinary efforts are being put forth to that end by associations, which are being formed not only in the larger cities and towns, but even throughout the country districts. More attention and care is being given to the construction and material used in new buildings, which are firetraps and a menace to other property. In this work every citizen, whether he belongs to a fire company or not, is vitally interested, and you are urged to give consideration to the matter and by your example and efforts encourage your neighbors to become thoroughly familiar with the construction of the buildings in your respective neighborhoods by making an inspection, either as individuals, or by forming a fire prevention association."

Board Acts on Complaints.

The public Service Commission advised the Mutual Film Corporation of this city, that its claim against the Adams Express Company relating to transfer charges is a matter for the courts. The complainant alleged delay in shipments from Harrisburg to Scranton and from Alexandria to Harrisburg. The express company contended that in the latter case it could not transport the shipments because of the restrictions of the federal law, requiring films to be placed in proper containers. The complainant was advised by the Commission that the shipments should be packed in accordance with these rules and the express people were notified to use diligence in forwarding. The management of the Schuykill & Dauphin Traction Company was notified by the Commissioners to exercise all possible care in the operation of its cars over an overhead trestle at Wiconisco and to see to it that the car brakes are in satisfactory working condition before the movement over the trestle begins. The complainant in this case was A. M. Hanna, of Lykens, who suggested that the trolley line be permitted to cross the Pennsylvania railroad tracks at grade. This the Commission refused to grant.

Argues Atherholt Case.

James Gay Gordon, Jr., Assistant City Solicitor of Philadelphia, appeared before Deputy Attorney General Jesse B. Cunningham to tell why George W. Atherholt dismissed as a clerk in the Bureau of Vital Statistics of Philadelphia, should be dropped by State Health Commissioner Dixon as State Registrar for Philadelphia. The hearing was not public, but it was said that Mr. Gordon dwelt merely on the assertions that had been made in Philadelphia regarding the ousting of Atherholt and the naming of Miss Deardorf in his place. Doctor Dixon asserts that he alone has the power to name the Registrar of Philadelphia and Mr. Cunningham has been asked for an opinion.

State Charters Issued.

Thompson, Ziegler & Leinaw, Inc., Philadelphia; capital, \$10,000; Harold W. Leinaw, 4216 Spruce street, Philadelphia. Federal Brokerage Company, Philadelphia; capital, \$5,000, Henry L. Engle, 420 Walnut street, Philadelphia. Central Dairy Company, Philadelphia; capital, \$10,000; David Satinsky, 1429 South Seventh street, Philadelphia. Fraternal Enterprise Association, Philadelphia; capital, \$20,000; Lonzo S. Reid, 213 North 20th street, Philadelphia. The Insurance Service Corporation, Philadelphia; capital \$50,000; Alfred C. Walker, 5042 Market street, Philadelphia.

600 Lose Homes.

Five to six hundred Steelton people will be forced out of their homes within 30 days by an order issued by the Pennsylvania Steel Company. The company will remove all of the houses in the lower end of what is known as Ewington to make room for the enlargements to the plant. The company intends to erect a \$3,000,000 mill. The steel company has been making additions to its plant for some time, and the yards now stretch along the Susquehanna River for a distance of three miles.

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MAY 1909.



Placed Their Hands Upon the Spy's Shoulders.

the crowd of officers, and the next instant Holton, Miss La Tossa, and perhaps thirty of the Cubans, were surrounded by a ring of scowling men with revolvers leveled ominously. Not a word was spoken. Then from Cesnola there came laughter. "Men," he cried, "it was understood that a fusillade of shots here would be the signal for the attack on the Americans. In thirty seconds that fusillade will be heard, and the bullets will go where you are standing. Those who wish to engage in the attack upon the Americans will step out of that group, join our circle, and present their revolvers as we now present them." For a moment there was silence. Cesnola took out his watch. One Cuban left Holton's side and joined the circle, two followed him, then three, then six. Finally Holton and the girl stood alone.