

# *A PIRATE ADVENTURE*

## *CHAPTER 5*



### *The Interrogation*

The door of the barracks flew open with a loud clang and in the doorway stood an officer of the navy in full uniform. He had on a wide brimmed hat and a blue coat trimmed in white. Behind him were several soldiers.

“Get up and go to the aft deck. You have five minutes to be in formation,” the officer ordered in a big voice. “NOW!”

The soldiers behind the officer entered the room and made it perfectly clear that the officer was not joking.

The men rolled out of their hammocks and put on their clothes as fast as they could. They went out of the door and onto the aft deck one-by-one. Along the sides of the ship were sentries standing at attention with rifles in their hands. The crew of the *New Hope* looked ragged and rough compared to the neat and clean soldiers.

Standing on the bridge was a very impressive man. He had on a blue and gold military dress uniform. He had a beautiful silver sword hanging from his belt. He had many medals on his shirt. His hat had a large white feather on the right side. He stood before the crew with a stern face.

Behind him the sun was beginning to rise. The orange glow of the sun was directly behind the commodore giving him a somber outline. Standing next to him was Captain Fortner. He didn't look happy.

“I am Commodore Howe. I have some very disturbing news to tell you about,” the commodore said as he began to pace slowly from one side of the ship to the other as he

spoke. “Last night Captain Horatio of the *Red Calypso* escaped from your ship.”

The men on the deck began to talk to each other.

Ignoring the noise on the deck below he continued, “He had to have had help from at least one of you to accomplish this getaway. We are going to question each one of you until we find the ones who are responsible. For those who are found to have been complicit in this breach of security will be severely punished.

“We will speak to you one at a time. Wait for your turn. No one will eat until we have completed our interviews,” Commodore Howe said, as he looked out over the crew.

The crewmembers lined up at the entrance to the captain’s quarters.

After several of the sailors had been questioned, Pappy was called into the room.

“What is your name and what are your duties?” the commodore asked.

“I’m called Pappy. I’m the cook on the ship,” Pappy replied.

“We were told that you had a fight last night. What was that all about?” the commodore questioned him.

“My friend Garold and I had a disagreement. One of our old friends came aboard and we were telling old stories. Garold and I disagreed about the details of one of our sailor’s old stories. I guess we were a little drunk and made a big deal out of nothing,” Pappy explained.

“We also know that you took a man off of the ship. Who was that?” the commodore asked getting closer and more intense.

“Oh yeah. Our old buddy Henry Wellington came to see us,” Pappy said with a smile

“Wellington? Hm.. Wellington. Why is that name familiar?” the captain jumped in.

“Yes sir. He’s Jason Wellington’s father. You know the former cabin boy.” Pappy responded.

“Why did you take him off of the ship?” the commodore inquired.

“He got very drunk, and we thought he’d be better off back on shore to get over the effects of the rum,” Pappy answered.

“Do you know what ship he came in on?” the captain asked.

“No sir, I never asked him about that,” Pappy replied.

It was a while later that Garold was summoned to the room.

“What’s your name sailor?” the commodore asked.

“I’m seaman first class Garold Lawson, sir,” he replied.

“We know that you and Pappy had a fight last night. What was that all about?” the commodore asked the same question to Garold.

“Oh that, we both had a little too much to drink. We had an argument over the facts of a story. It was nothing,” Garold explained.

“Who was the man you were with?” The captain asked.

“You mean the man we took off of the ship? That would be Henry Wellington, sir. He came to visit when he heard that we were docked here,” Garold said, with a smile on his face.

“Why did you take him off of the ship?” the commodore asked.

“He got a little too drunk. We felt it would be better for him to sleep it off on shore.”

“Do you know what ship he came in on?” the captain asked.

“No sir, I don’t remember him telling us. I’m not sure how long he has been here,” Garold raised his eyebrows as he responded.

Garold was dismissed.

Jason was the last to go into the room.

“Young man, the guards who were at the door of the guest room say that you were the last one they let into the room last night. What were you doing there?” the commodore asked Jason.

“I brought him some rum and biscuits. Pappy fixed the food for him after we cleaned up the galley,” Jason answered.

“Tell us what happened,” the commodore inquired further.

“Well, while I was in the room a fight broke out on the deck. I tried to see what

was happening. The guards left me there while they went to watch the fight. A few minutes later the guards came back. I asked to leave and they let me out, locking the door behind me.” Jason explained.

“Did you know that your father was on the ship?” the captain asked.

“MY FATHER! He was on the ship? Who told you that?” Jason jumped out of his chair in amazement doing a pretty good job of acting.

“Pappy and Garold said they met your father on the ship and got drunk together. You didn’t know?” the commodore asked.

“NO SIR! I thought they were my friends. They never told me my father was here. I didn’t even know that he was alive. We were told he was lost at sea five years ago,” he said sadly as he sat down.

“What do you know about Captain Horatio?” the commodore continued to press Jason for information.

“All I know is that he was about to go to sleep when I left,” Jason answered.

“That is all. We’ll ask you more questions later,” the commodore said as he showed him the door.

Jason walked out with his head low showing great emotion that his father was really alive, but he had not been able to meet him, at least that is what he wanted the commodore to think.

Jason went to the barracks and looked over at Pappy and Garold. They gave him a nod and he nodded back. He lay on his hammock and closed his eyes. He had never lied like that before. He was still shaking from the experience as he drifted off to sleep.

The large bell on the ship began to ring. It was time for the noon meal. Jason had slept through the preparations. He ran to the galley to help Pappy.

“Good morning Pappy. Why didn’t anyone wake me this morning?” Jason asked.

“I thought you needed the sleep. I have some news for you. The *Intrepid* has arrived. They found the captain and the admiral and have docked very close to us,” Pappy told Jason.

“The captain told the commodore of your bravery and how you helped to sink the *Red Calypso*. Admiral Montblue will be coming here after lunch. He has something very special for you,” Pappy continued with a big smile on his face.

Jason said, very softly so no one else could hear him, “So, do you think our plan worked?”

“It looks that way,” Pappy whispered back, as he smiled and winked his approval.

After the noon meal was finished, the men were directed to assemble once again on the deck of the *New Hope*.

Admiral Montblue stood before them. He looked weathered from being in an open boat for three days, but his voice was strong. “Gentlemen, it’s my honor to be here today. What you’ve done is a great thing. You’ve captured the crew of the *Red Calypso*. It’s unfortunate that Captain Horatio escaped, but don’t worry. We will catch him again.

“It’s my pleasure to recognize each one of you for your heroism and great duty. I want to especially recognize one of you for creative thinking and for being instrumental in the sinking of the *Red Calypso*.

“Jason Wellington, will you come up here please?” the admiral smiled.

Jason went up to the bridge.

“I give you the Blue Cross of Freedom, the highest honor given to civilians for acts of great devotion. You are an example to all of us,” the admiral said, as he stepped back and let the crew cheer him.

Jason smiled, but he knew in his heart he had deceived the very people who were giving him this honor. In spite of his lying to about his father, he accepted it with dignity.

The rest of the day was quiet. None of the crewmembers were allowed off of the ship until the mystery of how Captain Horatio had escaped was solved. The days passed slowly with nothing to do.

A blockade was setup at the entrance to the harbor so no one could leave the harbor. Military law was in effect. Everyone in the town was under a curfew. The search for Captain Horatio was going on, but no one knew what he looked like.

Captain Fortner had the men doing repairs and cleaning up the ship to prepare it for the next leg of the journey. They still needed to deliver the goods in the hold before they returned home. Everything that had been taken onto the *Intrepid* was now returned and in the hold of the *New Hope*. Now they just had to wait until the investigation was complete.

A few days later three soldiers came to the galley door and demanded to see Jason Wellington.

“Is Jason Wellington here? We need him to come with us right now!” the first soldier demanded.

Jason was surprised by this. He stood up and followed the soldiers out of the galley and up the steps to the deck.

He was met by Pappy and Garold.

“You three are to come with us,” the soldier commanded them.

Under military escort the three were taken off of the ship and led down the long dock to the navy headquarters. They entered the building and were led up a wide and long staircase to the second floor. At the top of the stairs there was a large doorway. On either side of the doorway were sentries.

The first soldier knocked on the door.

“Enter,” a voice from within said.

Sitting at a large desk with three chairs in front of it was Admiral Montblue and Commodore Howe.

“Sit down gentlemen. We have a few more questions for you,” he said, as the admiral pointed to the chairs and began the conversation.

“We need to hear your stories again. There are some differences in your stories and the descriptions of what happened the other night. We want to make sure we have all of the facts correct,” the admiral continued.

The commodore then stepped forward.

“From what you have told us, it seems that a man named Henry Wellington came

aboard the *New Hope* to greet you. Is that correct?" the commodore said in a manner that indicated that he was having trouble believing the story.

Pappy spoke up, "Yes sir that is what we said."

"And you said that you had a fight over the facts of a story. Is that correct?" the commodore asked as he leaned closer to the three sailors who were now feeling very uncomfortable.

Pappy again replied, "Yes sir, that is what we said."

"*And* you said that this man, Henry Wellington, the father of Jason, never spoke to him, is that correct?" the commodore was becoming even more aggressive in the tone of his voice.

Garold responded, "Yes, sir. We knew that Jason was with Captain Horatio giving him his rum and biscuits. We didn't want to bother him."

"You also told us that he got very drunk and then you took him down the gang plank to let him go home to sleep off the effects of the rum. Is this also correct?" the commodore continued the questioning.

The two men shook their heads in agreement.

By now sweat was beginning to form on the brows of Pappy and Garold. They knew that something was going to happen; they just didn't know what it was going to be.

"And mister Wellington, you told us that you left Captain Horatio sleeping in his bed. Is that correct?" the commodore's nose was also most touching Jason's as he directed the question to him alone.

"Ah.... Yes, sir. That is what I told you." Jason answered.

"Well, gentleman, we have a problem here. We don't believe your story anymore. We have found something that will prove to be a bit of a surprise to you.

The commodore looked up.

He ordered two of the sentries, "Bring the man who is outside to come in. We need him here immediately."

There was a pause in the room. The silence was almost unbearable. The only noise

was from the pen that the admiral was tapping on his desk.

Just then a thin man in ragged clothing walked in. He looked like he had been starving for a long time. His hair was turning gray and his beard was thin and also gray. His clothes were dirty and his shoes had big holes in them.

“Jason, I’d like to introduce you to your father,” Admiral Montblue said with a very serious look on his face. “This is Henry Wellington. He was one of the prisoners we have been holding in the prison at the navy headquarters.”

**VOCABULARY** (*Match the word to its definition*)

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|------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. barracks ____       | a. gather, come together  |
| 2. hammock ____        | b. feelings               |
| 3. impressive ____     | c. brave, daring          |
| 4. intense ____        | d. respect, regard        |
| 5. emotion ____        | e. place where many sleep |
| 6. bravery ____        | f. secrecy, obscure       |
| 7. assemble ____       | g. notable, imposing      |
| 8. honor ____          | h. courage, daring        |
| 9. mystery ____        | i. bed made of ropes      |
| 10. discrepancies ____ | j. deep, strong           |

**TRUE OR FALSE**

- |  |       |
|--|-------|
| 1. The crew was awakened very early.                   | T / F |
| 2. Captain Horatio questioned all of the men.          | T / F |
| 3. Pappy told the truth.                               | T / F |
| 4. Pappy and Garold were drunk.                        | T / F |
| 5. Henry Wellington fell into the sea.                 | T / F |
| 6. Jason had given Captain Horatio ice cream and cake. | T / F |
| 7. Jason pretended that he was happy about his father. | T / F |
| 8. Jason received a medal.                             | T / F |
| 9. Pappy and Garold told the same story.               | T / F |
| 10. Jason's medal was the Medal of Honor.              | T / F |

**MULTIPLE CHOICE:**

1. How long did the men have before that were to be on the deck? \_\_\_\_\_
  - a) twenty minutes
  - b) five minutes
  - c) immediately
  - d) the next day
  
2. Who questioned Jason, Pappy and Garold? \_\_\_\_\_
  - a) Admiral Montblue
  - b) Captain Fortner
  - c) Commodore Howe
  - d) Captain Horatio
  
3. Who told the sailors that Captain Horatio had escaped? \_\_\_\_\_
  - e) Admiral Montblue
  - f) Captain Fortner
  - g) Commodore Howe
  - h) Captain Horatio
  
4. What was the medal that Jason received? \_\_\_\_\_
  - a) Medal of Honor
  - b) Medal of Freedom
  - c) Yellow Medal of Courage
  - d) Blue Cross of Freedom

**COMPREHENSION:** (*Write a complete sentence to answer the question.*)

1. What happened early in the morning?

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2. Who stood on the bridge with the rising sun at his back?

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3. How many of the crewmembers were asked questions?

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4. What did Jason say he brought to Captain Horatio?

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5. What did Jason do when he was told his father had been on the ship?

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6. Who gave Jason his medal?

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7. Who was arrested?

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8. Where were Jason, Pappy and Garold taken?

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9. Who walked into the room and surprised them?

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10. What did Henry Wellington look like?

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