

Fear hung over the people at Fort Henry. The women cooked and cleaned house. But they were always listening for strange sounds. The men chopped wood and cleared land. But they were always watching for danger. These were the days of the American Revolution. And this was a wild part of Virginia. An attack could come at any time.

On September 11, 1782, it did. About two hundred Indians swept down on the fort. They were led by a few British soldiers.

Quickly the families left their homes. They crowded into the fort. The men locked the big gate and loaded their guns.

All day the enemy fired on the fort. At sunset they left. But the next morning they were back. The settlers began to worry. There were so few men in the fort. They had so little food. Could they hold out?

The third morning brought no hope. The enemy fired round after round of shot. But the settlers could not. They were running short of powder. Not one shot could be wasted.

By the fourth morning only a bit of powder was left. It looked as if the end was near. The men got ready to make one last brave stand.

Then suddenly one of the men remem-

bered something. There was a keg of powder in his cabin! He had been so excited when the attack started that he had left it behind. If only they had it now!

That powder was their only hope. Someone would have to go get it. But who? No strong man could be spared. No wounded man could run that far. It was a hundred yards to the cabin.

Then young Betty Zane stepped forward. "I'll get it," she said. "I can run faster than any boy." The men did not like this idea, of course. But at last they had to agree.

Betty opened the gate a crack. Out she ran. The Indians were too surprised to shoot. Betty reached the cabin, grabbed the powder, and started her run back.

Now the Indians saw what she was doing. They opened fire. The men in the fort fired back. And Betty ran for her life. It seemed hours before she reached the gate.

Quickly the settlers filled their guns with powder. Then they fired round after round. At last they drove the attackers back—for good. Fort Henry was saved.

Betty Zane's brave act brought praise from all America. One hundred years later, President Teddy Roosevelt called her one of America's greatest heroines.

CHECK YOUR READING

1. **The people at Fort Henry thought that an attack**
 - A could never come
 - B should not be expected
 - C might come any day

2. **Most of the attackers were**
 - A British soldiers
 - B French settlers
 - C Indians

3. **At night the enemy would**
 - A keep firing at the fort
 - B leave the fort
 - C stay near the big gate

4. **On the third day the settlers began to run short of**
 - A powder
 - B water
 - C guns

5. **On the fourth morning the settlers got ready to**
 - A ask for peace talks
 - B make one last stand
 - C wipe the attackers out

6. **A wounded man could not get the powder because he could not**
 - A run to the cabin
 - B lift the keg
 - C open the gate

7. **Betty Zane said that she was good at**
 - A shooting
 - B hiding
 - C running

8. **The Indians began to fire at Betty when she**
 - A opened the gate
 - B entered the cabin
 - C began to run back

9. **Because of Betty the settlers were able to**
 - A send out for help
 - B drive the attackers away
 - C escape from the fort at night

10. **One hundred years later Betty was praised by**
 - A an American president
 - B a British general
 - C an Indian chief