

BILLY THE KID - IN PICTURES

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SUN

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Every Monday



THE TERRIBLE THREE



Tom Merry, Monty Lowther and Harry Manners are known as the Terrible Three of St. Jim's College. They and the rest of the School House juniors are rightly annoyed because Mr. Ratcliffe, the housemaster of New House, has been exceeding his authority and administering punishment to School House boys.

The Terrible Three take a letter of protest to Mr. Ratcliffe, only to learn that Dr. Holmes, the headmaster, has been called away from the school and Mr. Ratcliffe is now acting headmaster.

The School House juniors rebel against Mr. Ratcliffe's harsh rule and barricade themselves inside School House. When Mr. Ratcliffe tries to storm the stronghold he is forcibly repelled by Tom Merry...

A RAGGED CHEER CAME FROM THE REBELS INSIDE SCHOOL HOUSE AS MR. RATCLIFFE PICKED HIMSELF UP FROM THE QUADRANGLE AND LIMPED AWAY, ANGRILY BRANDISHING HIS FIST.



MR. RAILTON, THE SCHOOL HOUSE HOUSEMASTER, HAD WITNESSED THE UNSUCCESSFUL ASSAULT UPON THE REBELS' STRONGHOLD. NOW HE TRIED TO GIVE A FEW WORDS OF ADVICE TO THE FUMING MR. RATCLIFFE...



HEEDLESS OF THE ANGRY FLUSH WHICH HIS CURT MANNER HAD BROUGHT TO THE OTHER MASTER'S CHEEKS, MR. RATCLIFFE SWEEP AWAY AND ROUNDED UP MONTEITH, BAKER, WOOD AND SEFTON, FOUR OF HIS NEW HOUSE PREFECTS.



FROM THE LOWER WINDOWS OF THE SCHOOL HOUSE BUILDING TOM MERRY AND HIS PAL'S WATCHED THE PREFECTS DETERMINEDLY APPROACHING...



WITH GRIM RESOLUTION, THE FOUR BURLY SIXTH-FORMERS FLUNG THEMSELVES INTO THE ATTACK... TO BE MET WITH A BARRAGE OF INK AND WATER 'BOMBS' AND CRICKET STUMPS WIELDED BY THE HIGH-SPIRITED JUNIORS.



WITHIN A FEW MINUTES THE FOUR PREFECTS WERE IN FULL RETREAT, BRUISED, BREATHLESS AND INK-BESPATTERED, THEY WITHDREW TO A SAFE DISTANCE, MUCH TO THE ANNOYANCE OF MR. RATCLIFFE.



SO FAR THE HONOURS HAD GONE TO THE REBELS. BUT MR. RATCLIFFE WAS NOT BEATEN YET. HALF-AN-HOUR OF UNEASY PEACE WENT BY AND THEN THE GRIM-FACED NEW HOUSE MASTER WAS SEEN APPROACHING THE REBELS' STRONG-HOLD WITH A HEAVY AXE IN HIS HAND.



MR. RATCLIFFE SWUNG HIS AXE THROUGH THE AIR AND THE STOUT DOOR OF SCHOOL HOUSE SHUDDERED FROM TOP TO BOTTOM AS THE BLOW DESCENDED. AGAIN AND AGAIN THE HEAVY AXE-BLADE STRUCK HOME, AND WITHIN THE BUILDING THE JUNIORS REALISED THAT, STOUT THOUGH THE DOOR WAS, IT MUST GIVE WAY BENEATH SUCH A DETERMINED ASSAULT.



TOM MERRY LEANED OUT OF THE UPPER WINDOW, TILTING A BUCKET... AND A STREAM OF SOOTY WATER DESCENDED UPON MR. RATCLIFFE.



DRENCHED TO THE SKIN, THE MASTER DROPPED HIS AXE AND STAGGERED AWAY. THE ATTACK ON SCHOOL HOUSE HAD BEEN SUCCESSFULLY REPULSED.



THE REBEL JUNIORS WERE LEFT UNDISTURBED FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE DAY, AND THE NIGHT THAT FOLLOWED. FEELING THAT THEY HAD SCORED A VICTORY, THEIR SPIRITS RAN HIGH UNTIL, JUST AFTER BREAKFAST, A FAMILIAR FIGURE WAS SEEN TO PASS THROUGH THE SCHOOL GATES.



DR. HOLMES HAD RETURNED TO ST. JIM'S AFTER RECEIVING A TELEGRAM FROM MR. RAILTON, INFORMING HIM OF THE STATE OF AFFAIRS AT THE SCHOOL. AFTER GOING AT ONCE TO HIS STUDY HE SENT FOR MR. RATCLIFFE AND SOON LEARNED OF ALL THAT HAD HAPPENED.



SO IT WAS THAT LATER THAT DAY, KILDARE THE CAPTAIN OF ST. JIM'S APPROACHED THE WARY INMATES OF SCHOOL HOUSE.



NOW THAT MR. RATCLIFFE WAS NO LONGER IN COMMAND OF THE SCHOOL, THE JUNIORS HAD NO HESITATION. LED BY THE TERRIBLE THREE THEY MARCHED JOYOUSLY OUT INTO THE QUADRANGLE.

