Billy battles Apache warriors

'Long about this time Bonito and I arrived. The Apaches had been subdued pretty quick: The soldiers took up flanking positions and poured the lead on. Bonito and I came up opposite from the soldiers' positions and while there was only two of us, I had a Winchester and a .45 and Bonito had a Winchester and a---I don't know what kind of pistol he had, I think he still carried a cap and ball Remington.

We opened up on 'em from where we were. There was only two of us but we flanked them and gave 'em hell from our side. We started picking off them damn turncoat Apache Scouts and that give the troopers a little breathing room. General Carr was right in the thick of it. Usually you don't picture generals fighting, but this man, he was in the middle of the fighting leading his people. He was not a coward, by any means.

Just as we got Nock-ay's bunch and the Apache Scouts subdued up come a courier from the fort riding hard for us. He said, "The fort's under siege!" The Apaches little maneuver was designed to pull a whole lot of troops out of the fort. Everybody was playing games, I reckon, and the Apaches always had another card up their sleeves. Since there was only a small garrison at Fort Apache we quickly regrouped and headed back.

With Betts at my side we headed hellbent for Fort Apache. I can't sit here and describe the battle with Nock-ay's people; it was hours and hours of fighting, but we won that one. As we neared Fort Apache we broke the first line of Apaches: There was a gang of 'em out there and I didn't stop to count 'em. We rode past the first buildings and took up positions to defend the fort. General Carr sent out a courier to Fort Thomas for reinforcements but he got picked off. He sent out another one a little bit later but they picked him off too. He got maybe five hundred yards out away from the fort and they nailed him.

Bonito said, "I'll go." I reckon if anybody knows how to get through a gang of Apaches it's another Apache.

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