

The stirring true story of William Ravnor, the oldest-ever winner of the Victoria Cross!

DEEDS OF GLORY
No.2

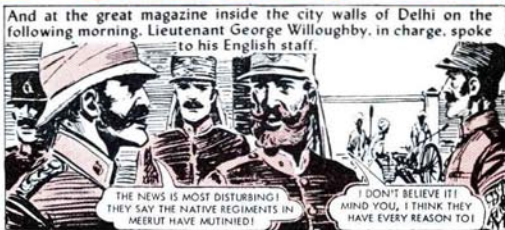
THE OLDEST V.C.



On a fateful Sunday in 1857, the Indian troops of the Bengal Army in Meerut mutinied against their British officers



TO DELHI! TO THE RED FORT AT DELHI! LET US PROCLAIM THE EMPEROR AS RULER OF ALL INDIA!



And at the great magazine inside the city walls of Delhi on the following morning, Lieutenant George Willoughby, in charge, spoke to his English staff.

THE NEWS IS MOST DISTURBING! THEY SAY THE NATIVE REGIMENTS IN MEERUT HAVE MUTINIED!

I DON'T BELIEVE IT! MIND YOU, I THINK THEY HAVE EVERY REASON TO!



LIEUTENANT RAVNOR! WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT STATEMENT?

THESE ENFIELD RIFLES WITH THE GREASED CARTRIDGES! THE SEPOYS SAY THEY ARE GREASED WITH COW-FAT! WHAT CRASS IGNORANCE TO DO THAT TO HINDUS, WHO WORSHIP THE COW!



RAVNOR, YOU'VE SPENT MOST OF YOUR LIFE IN INDIA IN THE SERVICE OF THE EAST INDIA COMPANY, BUT THAT DOESN'T GIVE YOU THE RIGHT TO CRITICISE YOUR SUPERIORS!

ALL MY LIFE! I'M NEARLY SIXTY-EVEN NOW AND OLD ENOUGH TO SPEAK MY MIND! OUR SUPERIORS ARE ASSES!



Meantime, the mutineers were marching on Delhi.

TO THE RED FORT! SLAUGHTER THE WHITE MEN! DRIVE THE ENGLISH FROM OUR LAND!



THEY ARE YOUR PEOPLE, SIRE! WITHOUT YOU THEY ARE NOTHING—LIKE FEATHERS IN THE AIR TO BE BLOWN AWAY AT WILL. SAY YOU AGREE TO BE THEIR EMPEROR AGAIN, SIRE!

THE FUTURE HOLDS LITTLE FOR ME! IF IT PLEASES THEM... I AGREE. IT IS MY DECREE THAT THE ENGLISH BE REMOVED FROM INDIA!



In the gilded Palace of Delhi dwelt the deposed king, a pensioner of the British...

BUT, SIRE, YOU WILL BE KAISAR—HINDI, EMPEROR OF ALL INDIA! OUR BRAVE SEPOYS ARE SWEEPING DOWN ON THE CITY NOW. TELL THEM YOU ARE WITH THEM, SIRE!

AH, HAD IT COME A SCORE OF YEARS AGO! BUT NOW I AM TOO OLD!



So the gates of Delhi were flung open to the advancing hordes...

AN ENGLISHMAN! SLAUGHTER HIM! SEEK OUT THE WHITE MEN!

WHERE IS THE KAISAR—HINDI? WHERE IS OUR EMPEROR?



Willoughby verified the reports and came racing back to the magazine...

IT IS TRUE! THE MEERUT MUTINEERS ARE IN DELHI AND THE NATIVE REGIMENTS HAVE JOINED THEM!

IT IS EXAGGERATED! THEY ARE ANGRY, THAT IS ALL! LET ME GO... I WILL SPEAK TO THEM! THEY WILL LISTEN TO ME!