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Jallianwalla Bagh

THE BEGINNING OF THE END OF THE BRITISH RAJ

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Jallianwalla Bagh

The incident which occurred at Jallianwalla Bagh on 13th April, 1919 will ever remain in the memory of all Indians as an eloquent symbol of British tyranny in India. The massacre of unarmed Indians, which left four hundred dead and twelve hundred wounded, aroused a universal surge of indignation against the British rulers. The tragedy prompted Poet Rabindranath Tagore to resign the knighthood conferred upon him by the British Government.

Indians hated Major General Dyer, the chief perpetrator of the crime. Under mounting pressure the British Government was forced to censure him. But for many Britons, Dyer was a hero who had saved the British Empire. The House of Lords justified his heinous act as "preventive massacre". Sir Michael O'Dwyer urged "The Morning Post" to launch a fund collection drive for Dyer in which the British ladies took a keen interest. The British-owned "The Times of India" contributed Rs. 20,000 to this fund. The fund totalled £ 26,317. In 1940, Udham Singh shot Sir Michael O'Dwyer to avenge the Jallianwalla Bagh Massacre.

The sacrifice of the martyrs of Jallianwalla Bagh resulted in further intensification of the struggle for independence. It turned millions of loyal supporters of the British Raj into nationalists. The Jallianwalla Bagh massacre thus became an important landmark in India's struggle for freedom.



OUR NEXT RELEASE ON:

June 15, 1988

Mahabharata—16

THE PANDAVAS CONQUER THE WORLD

Jallianwalla Bagh

IN THE YEAR 1919 THERE WAS UNREST IN PUNJAB. IN AMRITSAR, THE BRITISH RULE WAS CONSIDERED BOTH OPPRESSIVE AND INEFFICIENT BY THE PEOPLE.

PRICES ARE SOARING YOU SAY. WHAT CAN I DO? THE GOVERNMENT EXTORTS HIGH TAXES!

THE GOVERNMENT IS DOING NOTHING TO HELP US!

BHAI, HOW CAN IT? THE GOVERNMENT IS BUSY PASSING THIS BILL AND THAT BILL.

THAT'S RIGHT! NOW IT IS THE ROWLATT BILL!

BUT WHO CARES? IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH ME.

YOU ARE WRONG, BROTHER.

IF THE GOVERNMENT WANTS TO, IT COULD HAVE YOU ARRESTED AND SENT TO JAIL, MERELY ON SUSPICION. THE ROWLATT ACT GIVES THE GOVERNMENT THAT POWER.

GANDHIJI SAYS THE ROWLATT ACT IS A SYMBOL OF NATIONAL HUMILIATION!

PEOPLE IN AMRITSAR AS IN OTHER PARTS OF INDIA LOOKED TO GANDHIJI FOR GUIDANCE.

AS THE INFAMOUS PROVISIONS IN THE ROWLATT ACT BECAME WIDELY KNOWN, THERE WAS INDIGNATION EVERYWHERE. AT A MEETING OF LAWYERS.—

WE ARE THREE HUNDRED MILLION INDIANS AND WE ARE RULED BY ONLY TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND ENGLISHMEN!

I SEE WHAT YOU ARE GETTING AT! WE COULD TURN THE BRITISH OUT BY GIVING THEM JUST TWO SLAPS EACH!

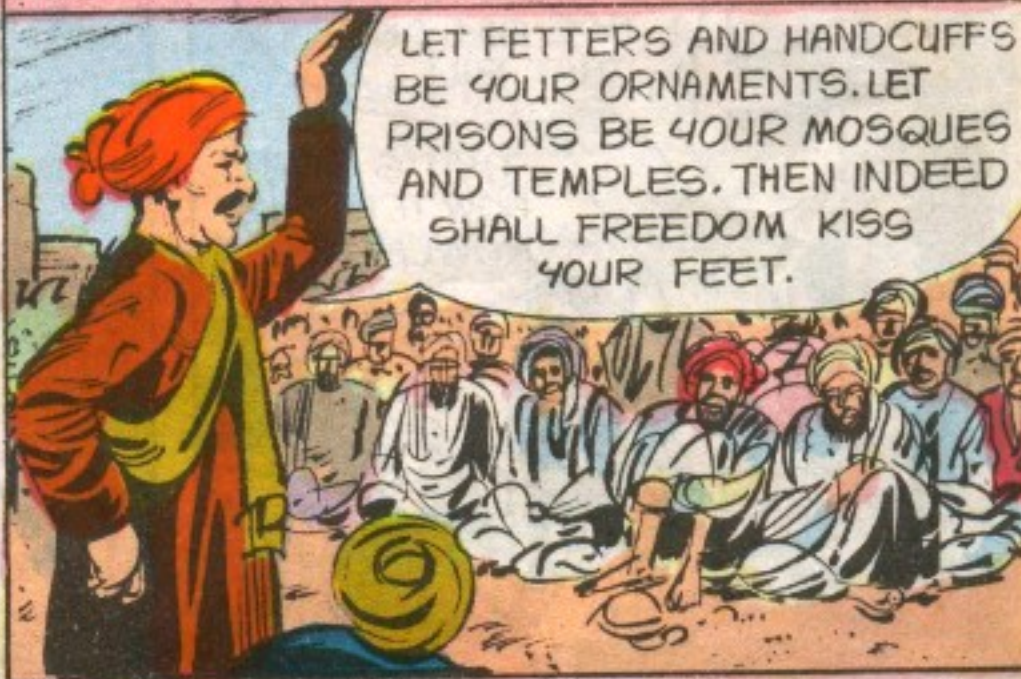


NO, NO VIOLENCE, PLEASE. GANDHI'S METHOD CALLS FOR SELF-RESPECT AND RESPECT FOR OTHERS.



THE SPEAKER WAS DR. SAIFUDDIN KITCHLEW, A PROMINENT GANDHIAN.

SEVERAL MEETINGS TOOK PLACE IN THE MONTH OF MARCH 1919. ONE SUCH MEETING WAS HELD AT VANDE MATARAM HALL.



LET FETTERS AND HANDCUFFS BE YOUR ORNAMENTS. LET PRISONS BE YOUR MOSQUES AND TEMPLES. THEN INDEED SHALL FREEDOM KISS YOUR FEET.

AT MANY OF THESE MEETINGS GANDHI'S IDEAS WERE EXPLAINED. DR. SATYAPAL, ANOTHER GANDHIAN, WAS ONE OF THE MOST EFFECTIVE SPEAKERS AT SUCH MEETINGS.



SATYAGRAHA IS A PROCESS OF SELF-PURIFICATION. OURS IS A SACRED FIGHT AND IT SHOULD BE COMMENCED WITH AN ACT OF SELF-PURIFICATION. TO THIS END GANDHI WANTS THAT ALL THE PEOPLE OF INDIA SHOULD OBSERVE A DAY OF HARTAL* ON MARCH 30.



* CLOSING OF SHOPS AS A MARK OF SORROW OR PROTEST

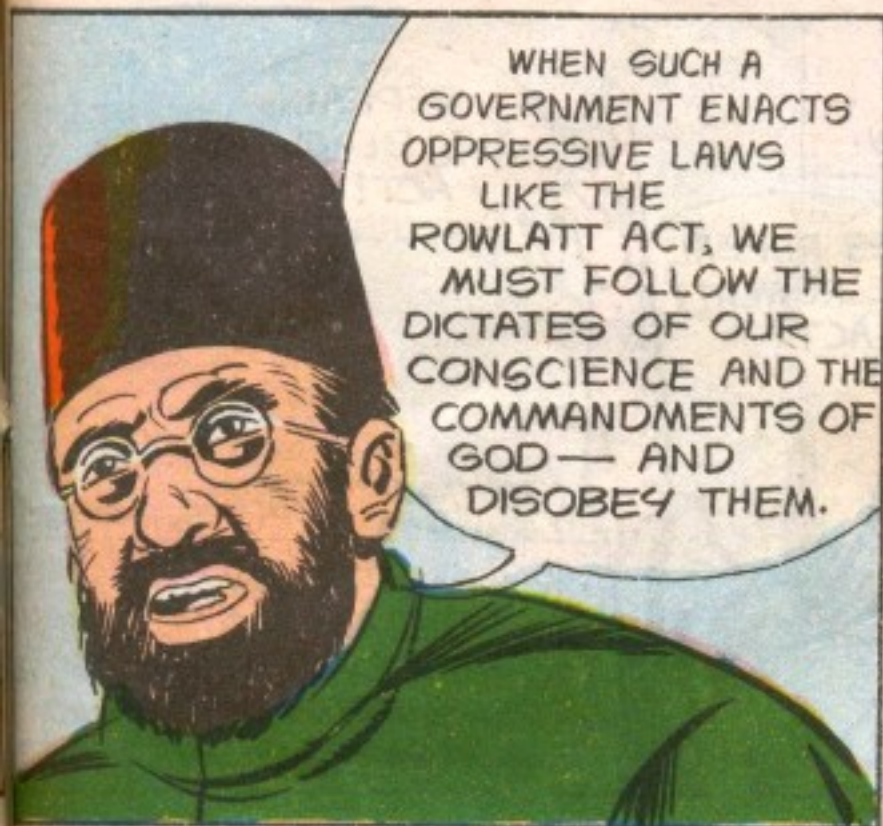
MARCH 30, 1919, WAS OBSERVED AS A DAY OF PRAYER AND OF TOTAL ABSTENTION FROM WORK. NO SHOPS WERE OPENED. THE STREETS WERE DESERTED.



IN THE EVENING, AT A MEETING HELD AT JALLIANWALLA BAGH, OVER 30,000 PERSONS WERE PRESENT.



THE BRITISH WERE NOT INVITED TO THIS COUNTRY, NOR DO WE WANT THEM HERE.



WHEN SUCH A GOVERNMENT ENACTS OPPRESSIVE LAWS LIKE THE ROWLATT ACT, WE MUST FOLLOW THE DICTATES OF OUR CONSCIENCE AND THE COMMANDMENTS OF GOD — AND DISOBEY THEM.



BUT WE WILL NOT USE FORCE. TRUTH IS ON OUR SIDE AND IT WILL PREVAIL.

WELL SAID, DR. SAHEB!

THE MEETING OF MARCH 30 WAS A TOTAL SUCCESS. THERE WAS NO VIOLENCE.



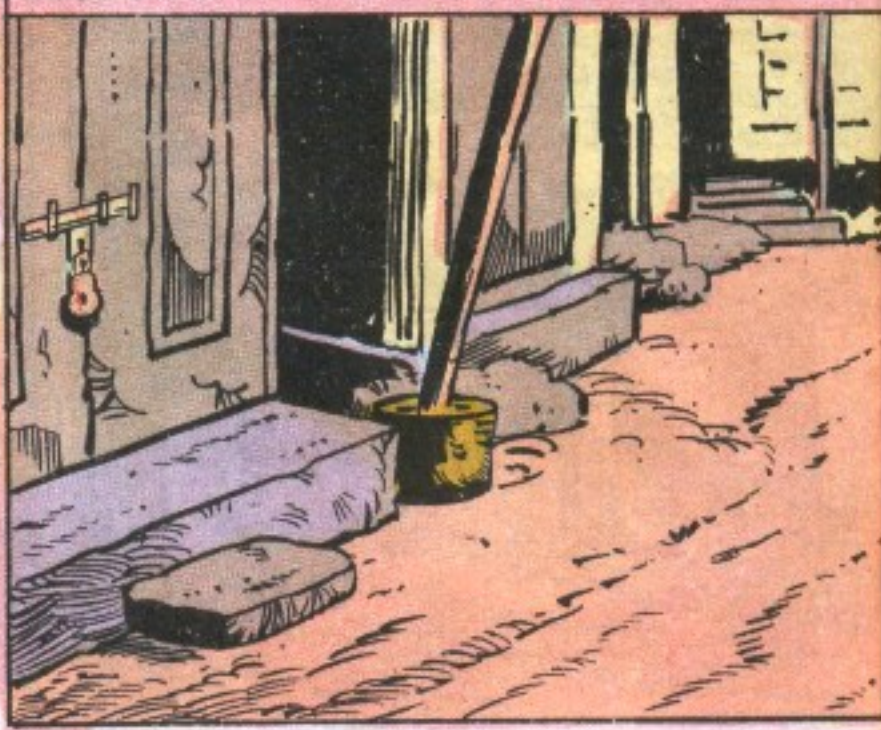
WE ARE SIMPLE PEOPLE... BUT DRUNK WITH THE LOVE OF FREEDOM...

WE WILL OBTAIN IT EVEN AT THE COST OF OUR LIVES. WE WILL NOT BE DAUNTED BY GUNS OR SPEARS.

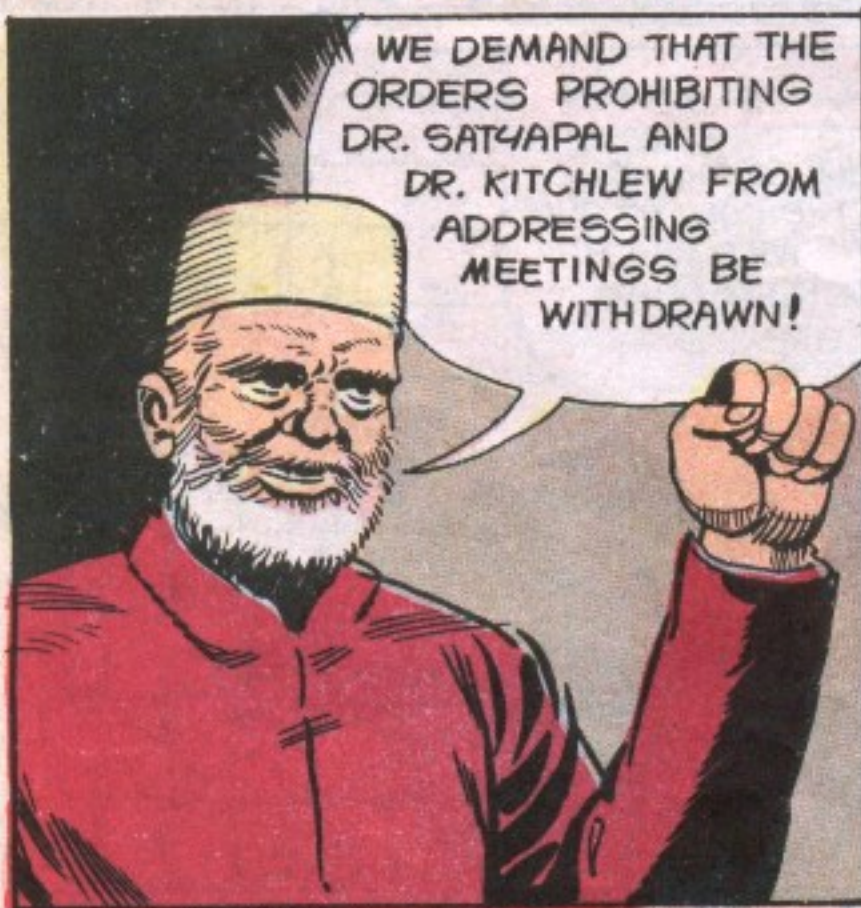
SOON AFTER, THERE WAS NEWS THAT THE DATE OF THE HARTAL HAD ACTUALLY BEEN POSTPONED BY GANDHIJI TO APRIL 6, TO GIVE THE WHOLE COUNTRY TIME TO PREPARE.



ON APRIL 6, THE HARTAL WAS AS SUCCESSFUL AS THE PREVIOUS ONE.



LATER THAT DAY, NEARLY 50,000 PERSONS ATTENDED THE MEETING WHICH WAS PRESIDED OVER BY DR BADRUL ISLAM KHAN.



MR. IRVING, THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER OF AMRITSAR, WAS A WORRIED MAN.



HMM—THESE MEN, KITCHLEW AND SATYAPAL, SEEM TO HAVE A TREMENDOUS INFLUENCE OVER THE PEOPLE. THEY JUST CALL FOR A HARTAL AND THE PEOPLE OBEY...

THE DAY PASSED OFF QUIETLY WITHOUT ANY TROUBLE; BUT THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER BELIEVED THAT THE HARTAL WAS THE FIRST STEP, A TEST OF STRENGTH—AND WORSE WAS TO FOLLOW.



IF A RIOT WERE TO BREAK OUT, OUR GARRISON WOULD NOT BE SUFFICIENT EVEN TO DEFEND THE CIVIL LINES. WE MIGHT THEN HAVE TO ABANDON NINE-TENTHS OF THE CITY!

ACCORDINGLY HE WROTE TO HIS SUPERIOR TO SEND REINFORCEMENTS.

APRIL 9 WAS RAM NAVAMI DAY. ON THIS HINDU FESTIVAL, FOR THE FIRST TIME IN YEARS, A LARGE ORDERLY PROCESSION OF HINDUS, MUSLIMS AND SIKHS WALKED THROUGH CROWDED STREETS.



HINDUS PUBLICLY ACCEPTED WATER FROM MUSLIMS.



THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER WITNESSED THE SCENE FROM THE VERANDAH OF A BUILDING.

THESE TWO COMMUNITIES FRATERNIZING—THAT'S A BAD SIGN...



WHEN THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER WAS SEEN IN THE VERANDAH ABOVE, THE BRASS BAND STARTED PLAYING "GOD SAVE THE KING."

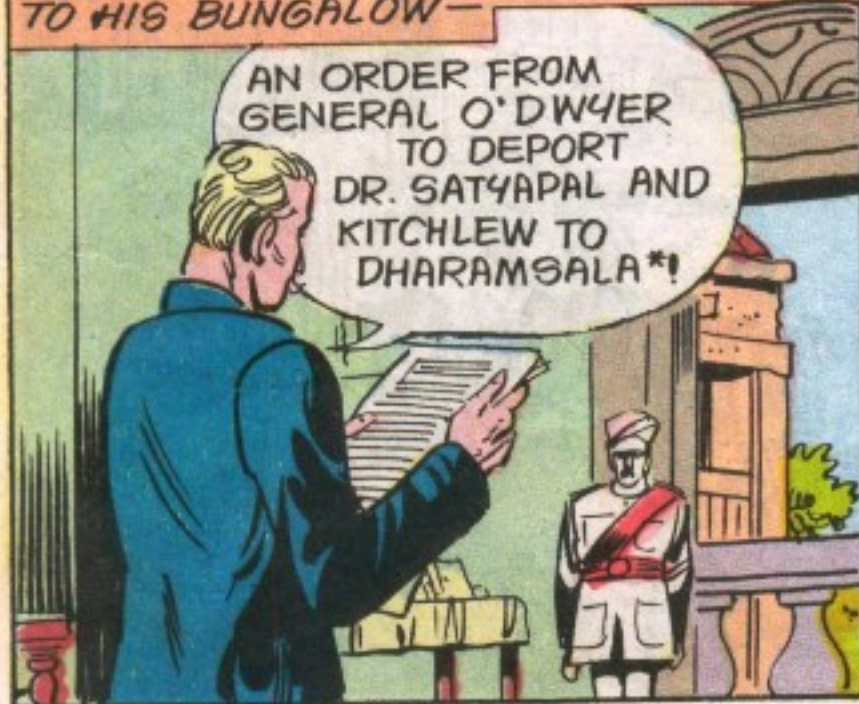


SOMETHING IS WRONG HERE. I HAVE A SUSPICION THEY ARE JEERING AT US!



BUT BY AND LARGE, THE CROWDS BEHAVED IN A DISCIPLINED FASHION.

THAT SAME EVENING WHEN MR IRVING, THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER, RETURNED TO HIS BUNGALOW—



AN ORDER FROM GENERAL O'DWYER TO DEPORT DR. SATYAPAL AND KITCHLEW TO DHARAMSALA*!

IRVING CALLED A CONFERENCE OF SENIOR OFFICIALS AT HIS BUNGALOW.



IF WE DEPORT KITCHLEW AND SATYAPAL I EXPECT TROUBLE WHEN PEOPLE GET WIND OF IT. WHAT SHOULD WE DO? ANY IDEAS?



AFTER MUCH DISCUSSION, THEY ARRIVED AT A STRATEGY.



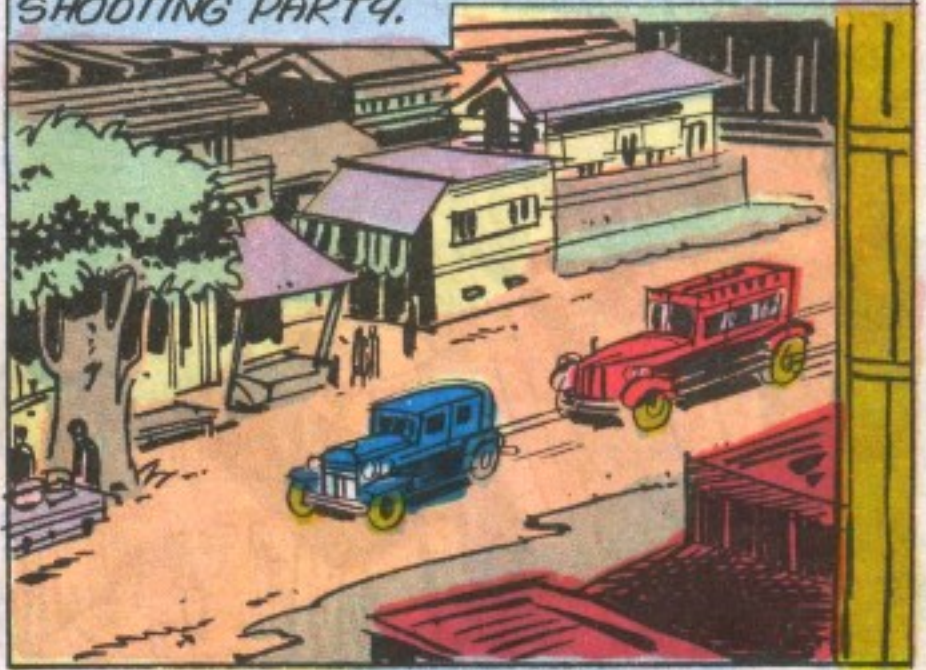
RIGHT! SO WE WILL HAVE MOUNTED PICKETS TO PROTECT THE RAILWAY STATION, THE CIVIL LINES AND THE CANTONMENT...

... AND AN INFANTRY DETACHMENT IN RESERVE AND 75 ARMED POLICE AT THE KOTWALI.

ON APRIL 10, KITCHLEW AND SATYAPAL WERE CALLED TO THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER'S BUNGALOW ON THE PRETEXT THAT IT WAS FOR A DISCUSSION.



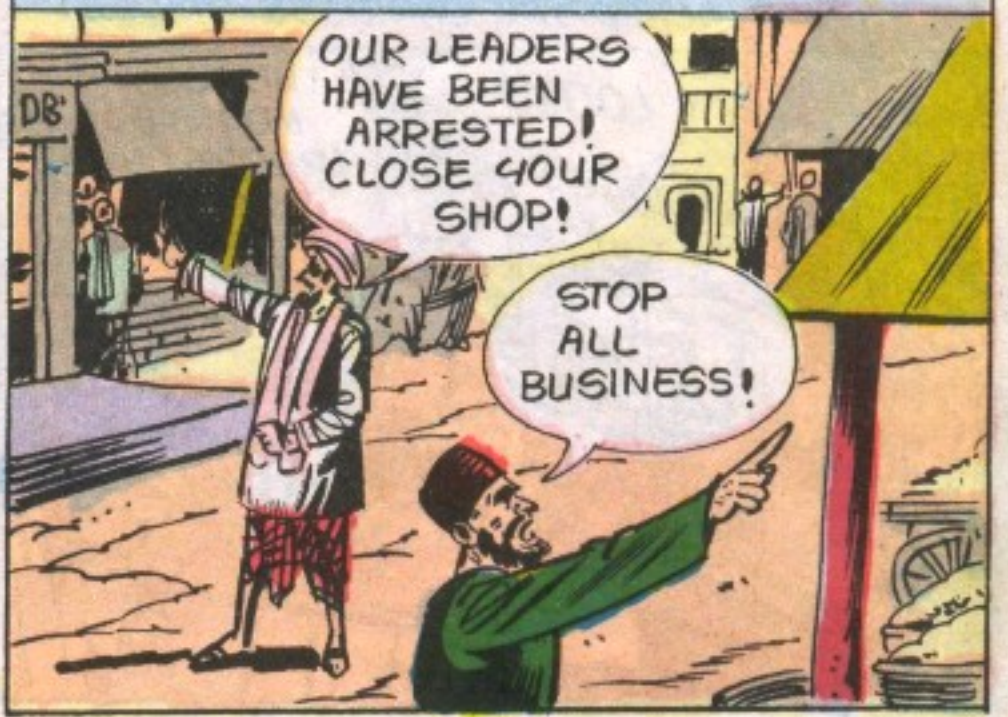
SOON AFTER, THEY WERE PLACED IN TWO SEPARATE MOTOR CARS AND DRIVEN AWAY UNDER A BRITISH ESCORT DISGUISED AS A SHOOTING PARTY.



IN SPITE OF ALL THESE PRECAUTIONS, THE NEWS SPREAD WITHIN AN HOUR.



EXCITED GROUPS OF PEOPLE BEGAN TO GATHER IN THE STREETS TO PROTEST.



SOON THE CROWDS SNOWBALLED FROM SMALL STRAGGLING NUMBERS TO 50,000. THEY WERE ORDINARY UNARMED CITIZENS.



HE MUST RESTORE OUR LEADERS TO US.

WE MUST HAVE OUR LEADERS BACK OR WE MUST BE PREPARED TO DIE!

THEY PASSED A NUMBER OF EUROPEANS ON THE WAY, BUT THE CROWD TOOK NO NOTICE OF THEM. THEY WERE INTERESTED ONLY IN AIRING THEIR GRIEVANCES.



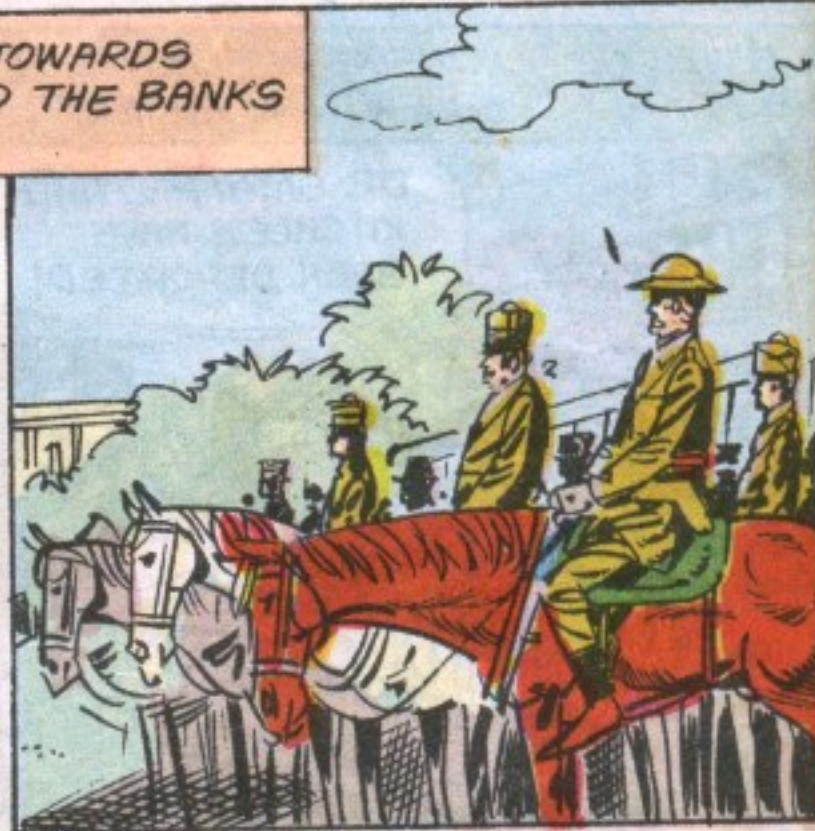
WE WILL TALK TO THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER! WHERE ARE OUR LEADERS? WE WANT THEM BACK.



THIS CROWD WALKED THROUGH THE STREETS, TOWARDS THE CIVIL LINES — PAST THE HALL BAZAAR AND THE BANKS TILL THEY REACHED THE CARRIAGE-BRIDGE:

LOOK!

THERE ARE MOUNTED TROOPS ON THE CARRIAGE-BRIDGE!



THEY WON'T LET US ENTER THE CIVIL LINES!

KEEP MOVING! DON'T BE AFRAID.



LIKE A TYPHOON THE EXCITED CROWD SURGED FORWARD...

... AND THE TROOPS RETREATED OVER THE BRIDGE. THE CROWD FOLLOWED THEM.



WHEN THEY HAD NEARLY REACHED THE OTHER END OF THE BRIDGE, THE MOUNTED SOLDIERS, IN DESPERATION, TURNED ROUND AND FIRED AT THE CROWD.

BANG

THREE OR FOUR DIED AND MANY WERE WOUNDED...

HELP!

HE'S BEEN HIT!

THE PEOPLE WERE PROVOKED. THEY PICKED UP STONES, STACKED ON THE ROADSIDE FOR METALLING WORK AND THREW THEM AT THE PICKET.

WE MUST HAVE OUR TWO LEADERS BACK...

... OR WE ARE READY TO DIE!

THEN TWO OF THE POLICEMEN DISMOUNTED, TOOK COVER BEHIND SOME CULVERTS AND FIRED.

SIX OR SEVEN SHOTS BROUGHT THE CROWD TO A STANDSTILL, FOR SEVERAL HAD FALLEN.

ONE OF THEM, A BOY OF SIXTEEN, LAY BADLY WOUNDED. DR. DHANPAT RAI WHO WAS PRESENT WENT TO HELP HIM, BUT HE ONLY WAVED HIM ASIDE.

I AM DYING. PLEASE ATTEND TO MY BRETHREN INSTEAD.

HINDU-
MUSALMAN
KI JAI!

A MOMENT LATER
HE DIED.

MEANWHILE PEOPLE HAD GATHERED AT OTHER PLACES TOO. AT AITCHISON PARK, PROMINENT CITIZENS SUCCEEDED IN KEEPING THE CROWDS PEACEFUL THOUGH MORE THAN 30,000 PERSONS HAD GATHERED THERE.

NO VIOLENCE
PLEASE. GIVE
THEM NO EXCUSE
TO SHOOT AT
US.

BUT PART OF THIS CROWD
EXTENDED UPTO THE
THE FOOT-BRIDGE.

SUDDENLY IT CONFRONTED
A SMALL MILITARY
GUARD POSTED THERE.
FOR A MOMENT IT
HESITATED...

...BUT THEN BEGAN TO MOVE FORWARD. SOME PEOPLE BEGAN TO THROW STONES AT THE MILITARY GUARD.



WE WANT TO MEET THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER!

THE DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE, MR. PLOMER, WAS IN CHARGE OF THIS PICKET.



SOME LAWYERS IMMEDIATELY CALLED OUT—



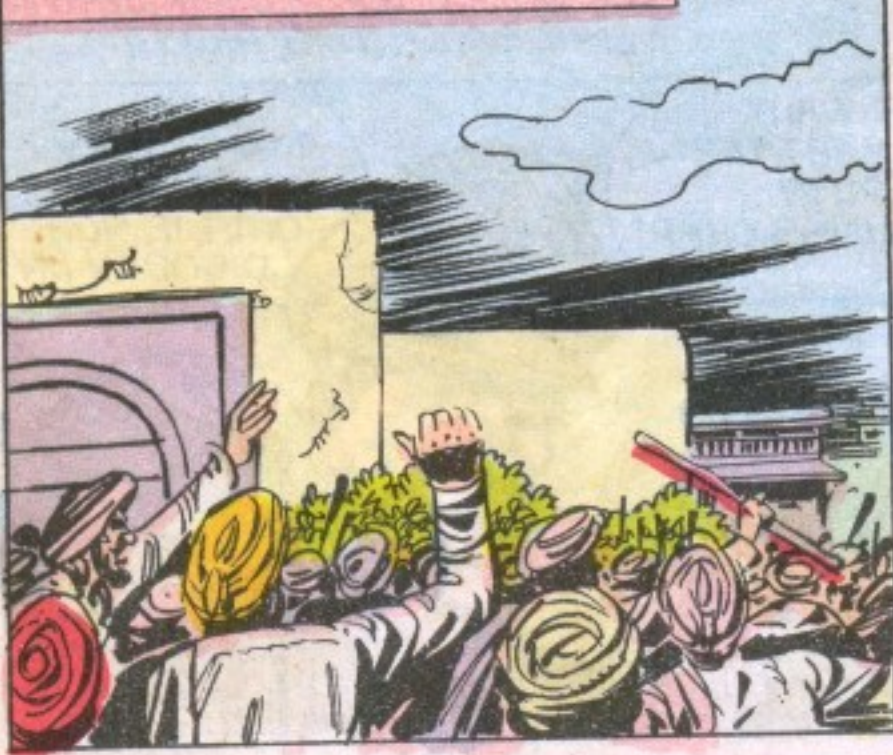
BY 12.30 PM. ON APRIL 10, CROWDS WERE TO BE SEEN EVERYWHERE. ON THE CARRIAGE-BRIDGE...



...ON THE FOOT-BRIDGE...



... NEAR THE RAILWAY GODOWN...



... IN AITCHINSON PARK...



... AND STREAMING THROUGH HALL GATE, HATHI GATE AND LOHGARH GATE...



THE SIGHT OF THE DEAD AND WOUNDED BEING CARRIED THROUGH THE BAZAARS ROUSED THE CROWDS TO ANGER AND TO REVENGE. TENSION BEGAN TO MOUNT.



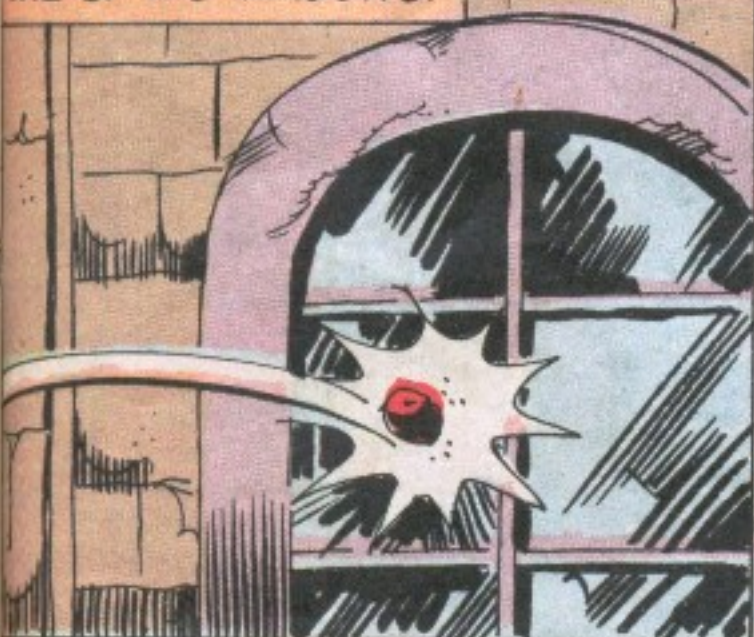
DISORGANISED, LEADERLESS, THE CROWD HAD NOW BECOME A MOB. GROUPS OF TEN TO THIRTY MEN ARMED WITH LATHIS AND SPIKES ATTACKED THE RAILWAY GOODS YARD...



...AND THE TELEGRAPH OFFICE.



AS THE CROWDS IN HALL BAZAAR PASSED THE NATIONAL BANK OF INDIA, SOMEONE THREW A STONE AT ONE OF ITS WINDOWS.



THAT SEEMED TO ACT LIKE A SIGNAL. THE MOOD OF THE CROWD CHANGED. SUDDENLY IT TURNED VIOLENT.



THE MANAGER AND HIS ASSISTANT, TWO ENGLISHMEN, WERE BEATEN TO DEATH AND THE BANK WAS SET ON FIRE.

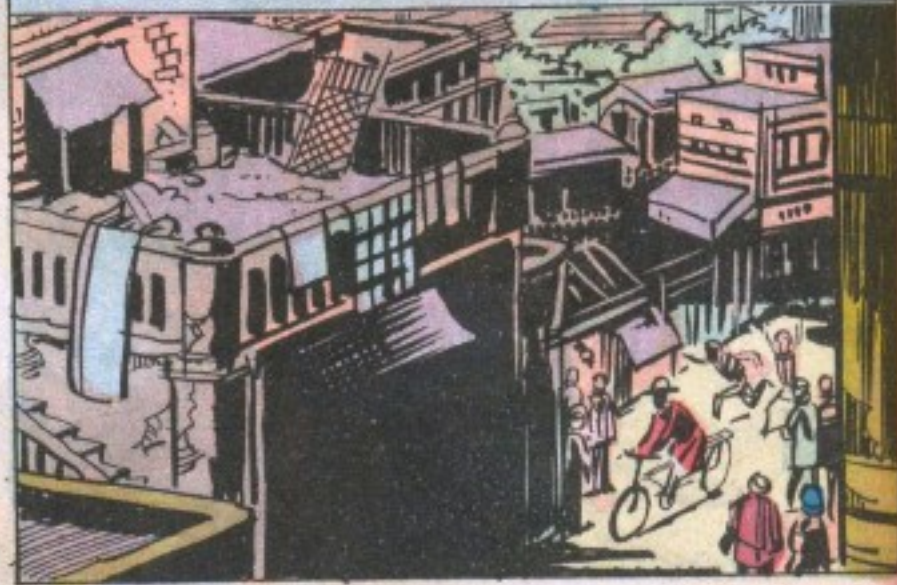


TWO OTHER BANKS IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD WERE ALSO ATTACKED AND LOOTED. INTERESTINGLY ENOUGH, THESE BANKS WERE VERY CLOSE TO THE KOTWALI WHICH WAS IN THE CHARGE OF TWO INDIAN OFFICERS. THEY DID NOT LIFT A FINGER TO HELP.

AT ONE PLACE, THE STATUE OF QUEEN VICTORIA WAS ATTACKED. BUT—



BUT IN MOST PLACES, THE MOB HAD LOST ALL REASON. AN ENGLISH WOMAN, MISS SHERWOOD, WAS PURSUED BY A GANG OF HOOLIGANS WHILE SHE WAS CYCLING DOWN KUCHA KAUHRAINWALA STREET.



SHE WAS KNOCKED DOWN FROM HER CYCLE AND WAS BEATEN UP MERCILESSLY.

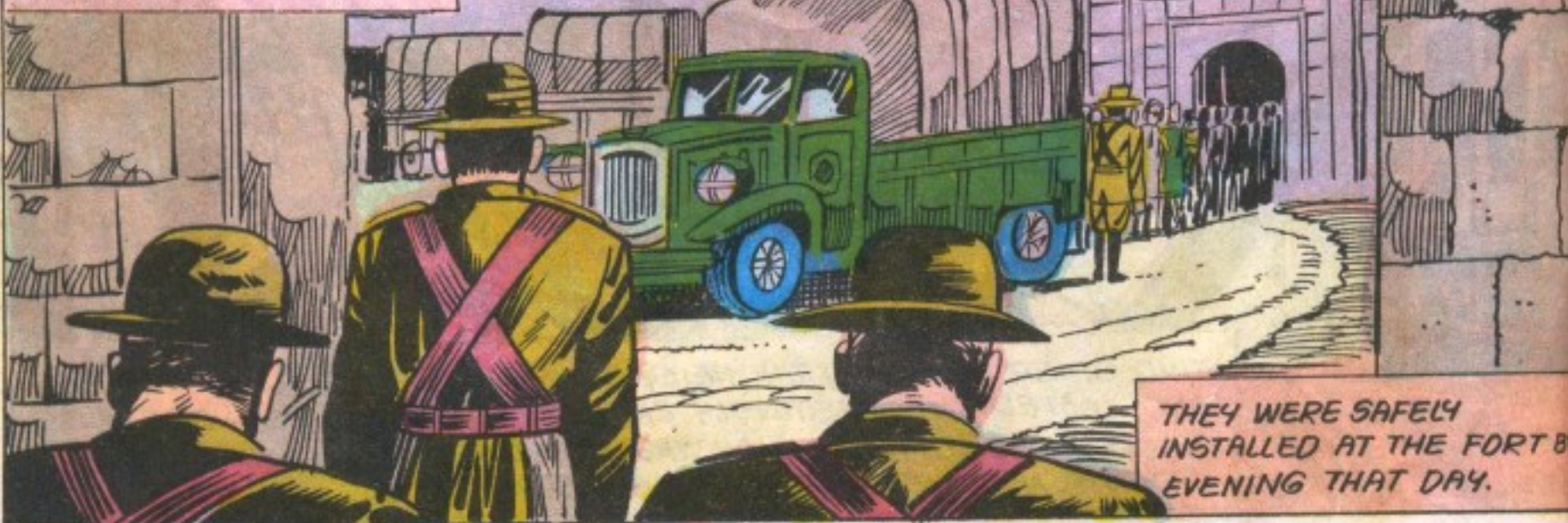


SHE WAS ABANDONED ON THE SPOT. LATER SOME SHOPKEEPERS SAW HER AND GAVE HER FIRST AID.



BUT HER CONDITION WAS SO BAD THAT SHE WAS SERIOUSLY ILL FOR A LONG TIME AFTER.

THE TOWN HAD BECOME UNSAFE FOR EUROPEANS. LIEUTENANT COLONEL HENRY SMITH, THE CIVIL SURGEON, ARRANGED FOR EUROPEAN WOMEN AND CHILDREN TO BE TAKEN TO GOVINDGARH FORT UNDER ARMED ESCORT.



THEY WERE SAFELY INSTALLED AT THE FORT BY EVENING THAT DAY.

AT 5:30 P.M. ON APRIL 10, MAJOR MACDONALD, INSPECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE, ARRIVED FROM LAHORE WITH 175 BALUCHIS AND 125 BRITISH INFANTRY.



BRIGADIER-GENERAL DYER HAS BEEN ASKED TO PROCEED TO AMRITSAR, MR IRVING.

YES, I RECEIVED THE MESSAGE. TILL DYER ARRIVES YOU WILL HAVE TO MANAGE.



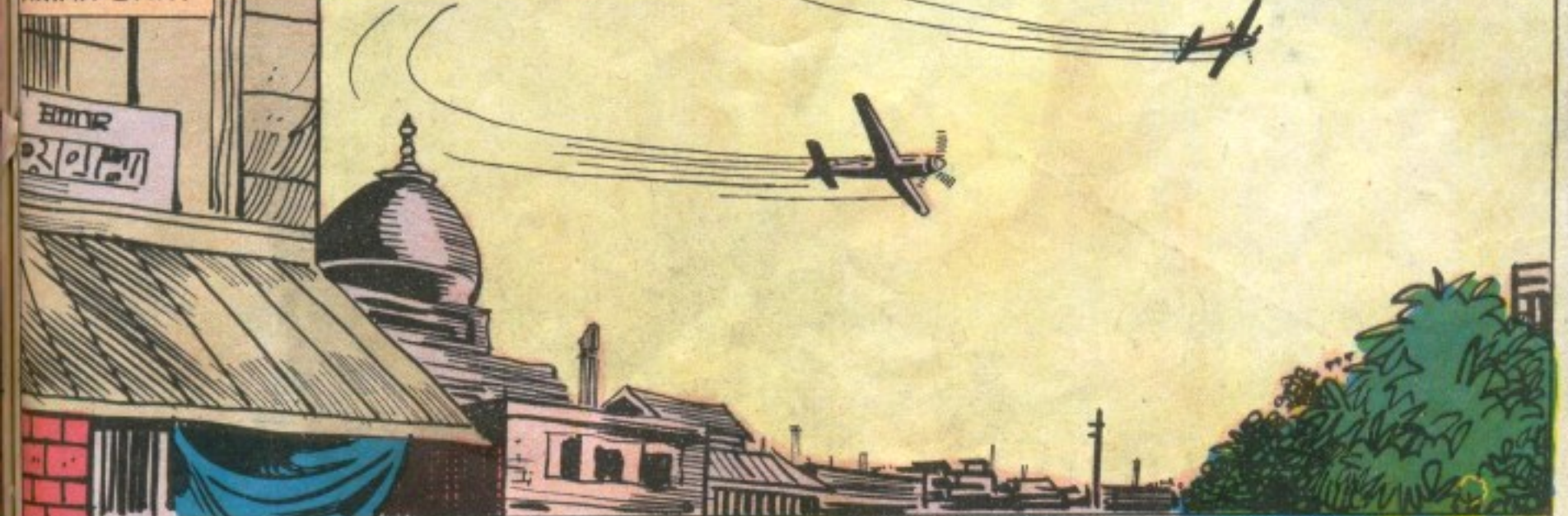
THAT NIGHT, MAJOR MACDONALD PROCEEDED TO PATROL THE CITY.



ALL QUIET. IT IS DIFFICULT TO BELIEVE PEOPLE HAD TURNED VIOLENT ONLY YESTERDAY.



ON APRIL 11, MORE TROOPS ARRIVED AND THEY WERE SENT TO RELIEVE THE PICKETS IN VARIOUS PARTS OF THE CITY. THAT EVENING, TWO AEROPLANES FLEW OVER AMRITSAR.



THE PEOPLE OF AMRITSAR WERE APPALLED AT WHAT HAD HAPPENED. THEY PUT THE BLAME ON THE GOVERNMENT.

IN BANKS AND SHOPS WHERE THERE WAS LOOTING AND ARSON THE GOVERNMENT DID NOTHING!

YET AT OTHER PLACES INNOCENT PEOPLE WERE SHOT!

WHAT CAN A GOVERNMENT DO WHEN PEOPLE START LOOTING, MAQBOOL?

I'LL TELL YOU WHAT. FOR A START IT SHOULD NOT DEPORT THE PEOPLE WHO STAND FOR NON-VIOLENCE AND WHO COULD ACT AS THE CONSCIENCE OF THE PEOPLE.

LATER, THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER CALLED SEVERAL RESPONSIBLE CITIZENS WHO WARNED THEM OF THE DIRE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT USING THEIR INFLUENCE TO MAINTAIN PEACE. MAQBOOL MAHMUD TRIED TO EXPRESS HIS FEELINGS ABOUT WHAT HAD HAPPENED.

WE ARE VERY SORRY, SIR, THAT SO MANY PEOPLE SHOULD HAVE LOST THEIR LIVES...

WE HAVE SEEN THE BODIES OF OUR DEAD CHARRED — AND YOU ARE SORRY NOW! YOU OUGHT TO HAVE BEEN SORRY WHEN YOU WERE ATTENDING THOSE FOOLISH MEETINGS OF YOURS!

LATER AS THEY WERE LEAVING —

AND WHAT ABOUT OUR DEAD? WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THEM?

SHUSH! THEY STILL HAVE THE MIGHT, THOUGH THEY LACK THE NUMBERS. ONE DAY WE WILL BE FREE OF THEM. THEN WE WILL BE ABLE TO MOURN OUR INNOCENT DEAD AND THEIRS!

BRIGADIER-GENERAL DYER ARRIVED IN AMRITSAR AT 9 P.M. ON APRIL 11. HE HAD A HURRIED CONFERENCE WITH THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER AND THE SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE THAT VERY NIGHT IN A RAILWAY CARRIAGE AT THE RAILWAY STATION.

THE WHOLE CITY IS HOSTILE TO THE BRITISH. WE ARE BESIEGED. CIVIL AUTHORITY HAS COME TO AN END. THE CITY IS IN YOUR CHARGE. NOW YOU MUST DO WHAT YOU CAN.



ACCORDINGLY DYER TOOK CHARGE ON THE MORNING OF APRIL 12.

SEND AEROPLANES TO SURVEY THE CITY FROM THE AIR AND REPORT ON THE ACTIVITY ON THE STREETS.



SOON HE RECEIVED REPORTS OF THE AERIAL SURVEY.

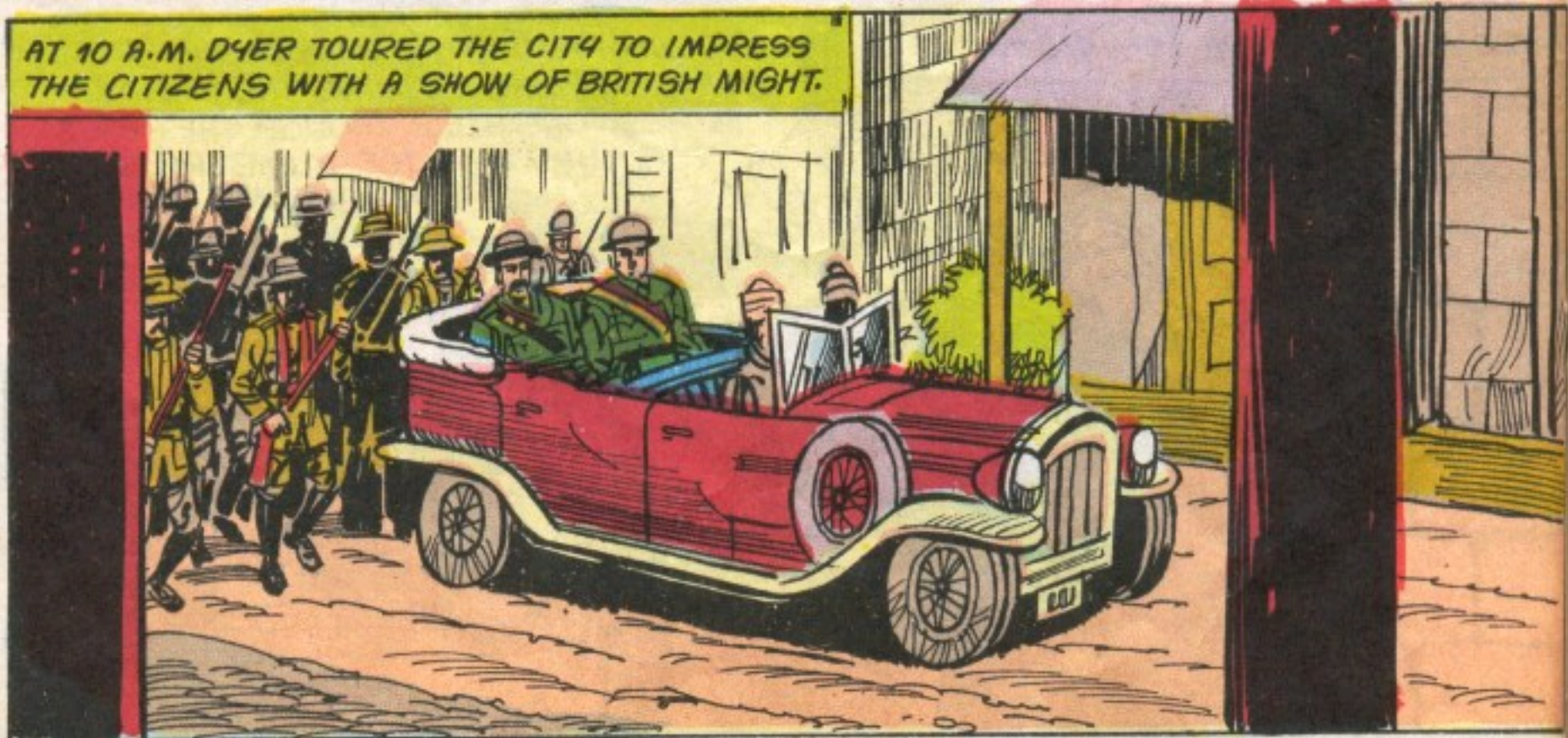
SIR, THE CROWDS ARE BEGINNING TO COLLECT IN VARIOUS PARTS OF THE CITY.

ALL RIGHT. WE WILL OCCUPY

STRATEGIC PLACES — BRIDGES, GATES AND WATER-WORKS TO RE-ESTABLISH CONTROL.



AT 10 A.M. DYER TOURED THE CITY TO IMPRESS THE CITIZENS WITH A SHOW OF BRITISH MIGHT.

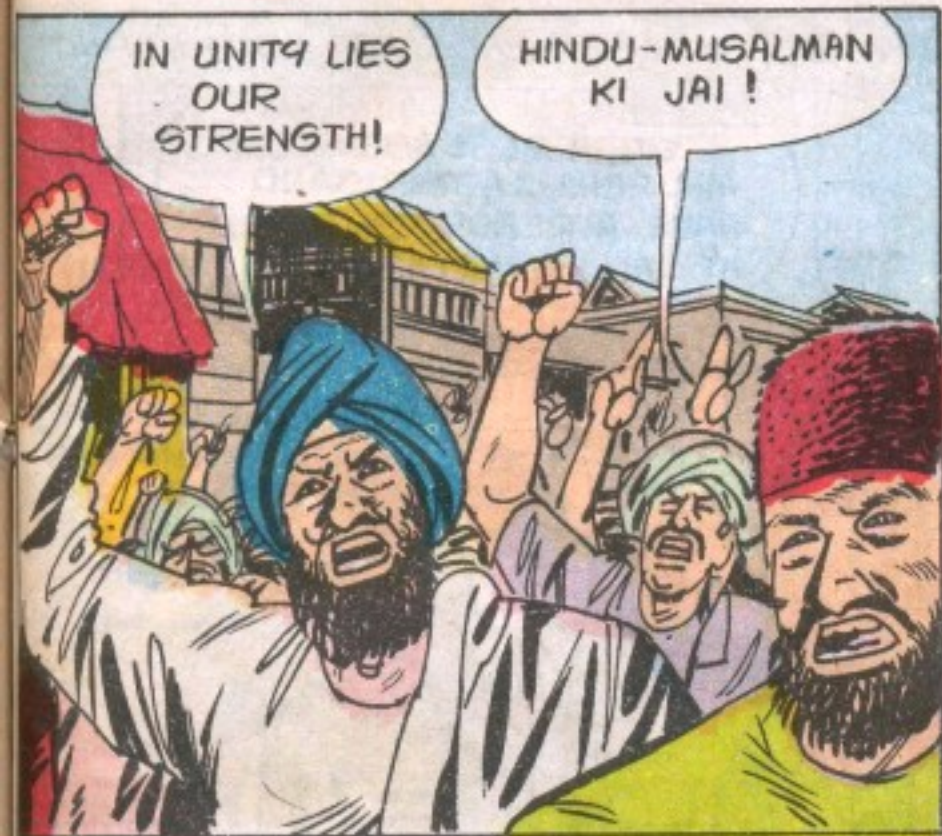


ON THE WAY HE SAW THE CROWD BEHAVED INSOLENTLY. IT SPAT ON THE GROUND BEFORE THE SOLDIERS.



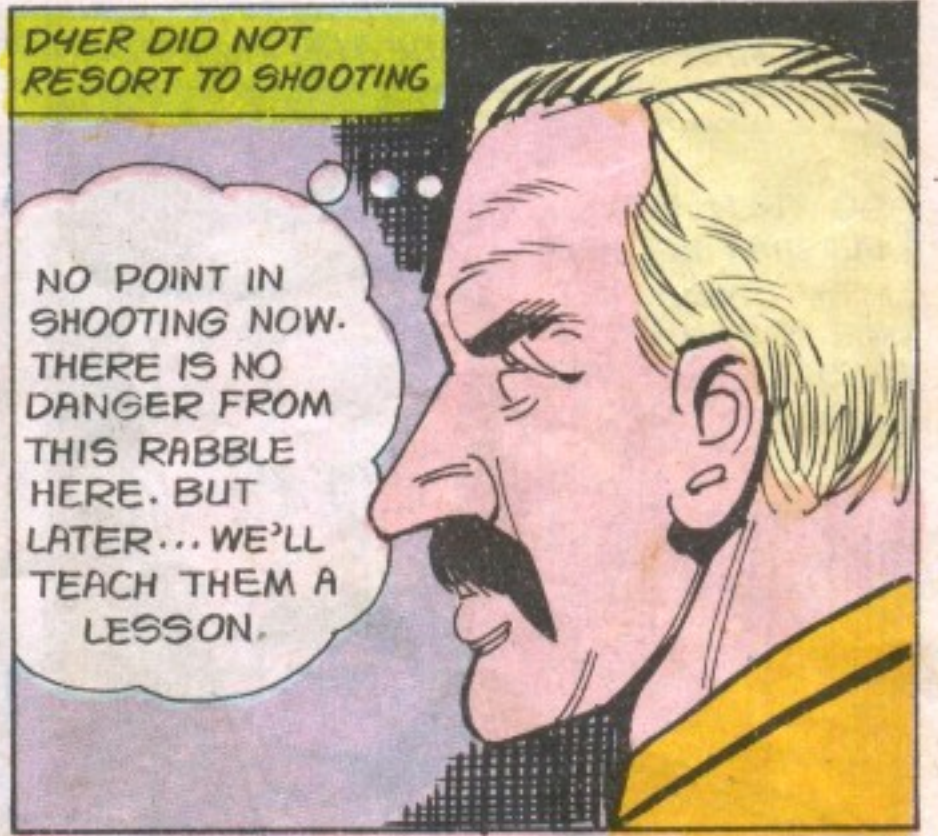
IN UNITY LIES OUR STRENGTH!

HINDU-MUSALMAN KI JAI!



DYER DID NOT RESORT TO SHOOTING

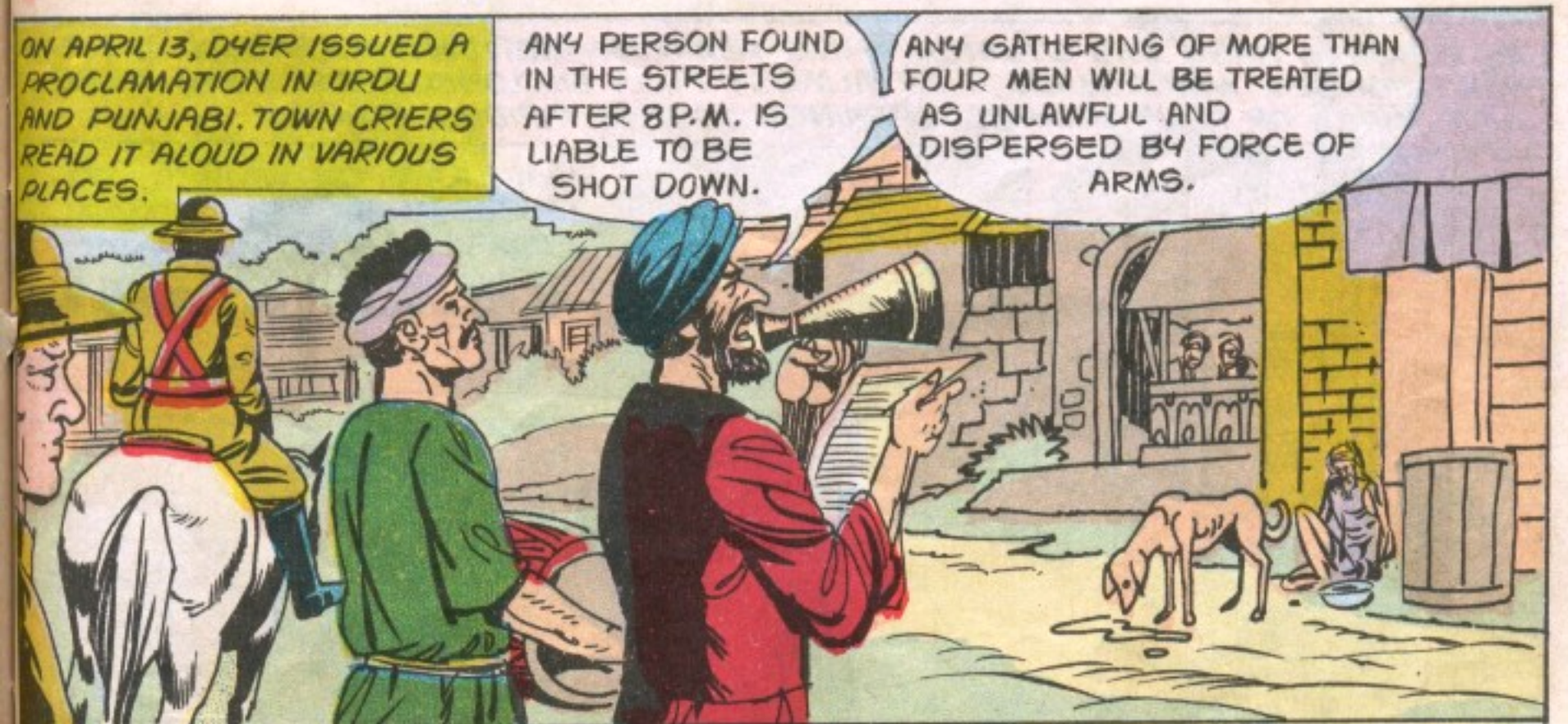
NO POINT IN SHOOTING NOW. THERE IS NO DANGER FROM THIS RABBLE HERE. BUT LATER... WE'LL TEACH THEM A LESSON.



ON APRIL 13, DYER ISSUED A PROCLAMATION IN URDU AND PUNJABI. TOWN CRIERS READ IT ALOUD IN VARIOUS PLACES.

ANY PERSON FOUND IN THE STREETS AFTER 8 P.M. IS LIABLE TO BE SHOT DOWN.

ANY GATHERING OF MORE THAN FOUR MEN WILL BE TREATED AS UNLAWFUL AND DISPERSED BY FORCE OF ARMS.



IMMEDIATELY AFTER THIS TWO MEN WENT ROUND THE CITY BANGING AN EMPTY TIN AND CALLING OUT—



A MEETING WILL BE HELD AT JALLIANWALLA BAGH AT 4:30 P.M. ALL ARE WELCOME.

MESSAGES FROM KITCHLEWJI AND SATYAPALJI WILL BE READ OUT!

DYER WAS INFORMED OF THE PROPOSED MEETING.



SO THEY STILL PERSIST IN THEIR FOLLY. WELL, LET ME KNOW IF PEOPLE ACTUALLY GO THERE.

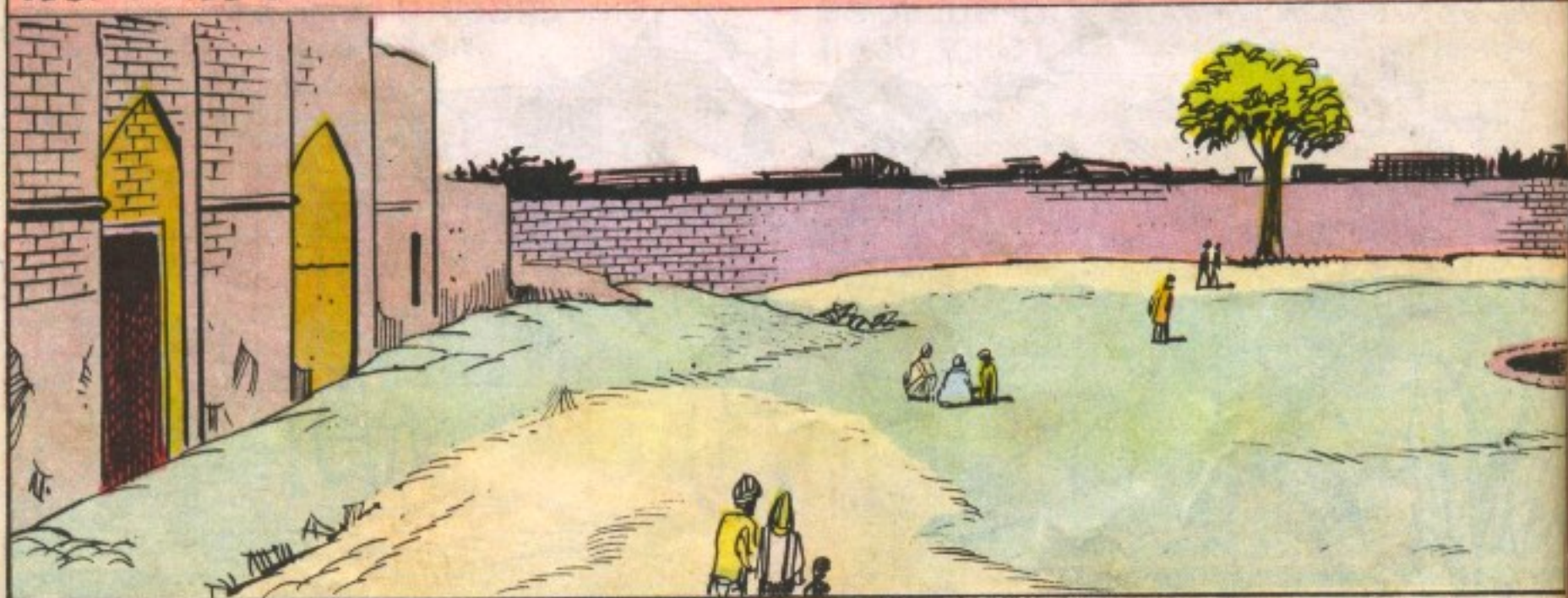
AT 4:00 P.M., DYER RECEIVED MORE DEFINITE INFORMATION.



SIR, A MESSAGE FROM MR. REHILL: A THOUSAND HAVE ALREADY COLLECTED AT JALLIANWALLA BAGH.

THE FOOLS! WELL, WE SHALL SEE WHO HAS THE LAST LAUGH!

JALLIANWALLA BAGH WAS SITUATED IN THE HEART OF THE TOWN. ALL AROUND IT THERE WERE HOUSES WHICH MADE IT AN ALMOST FULLY ENCLOSED AREA. THERE WERE JUST THREE OR FOUR NARROW OPENINGS TO IT AT VARIOUS PLACES.



EVEN AS DYER RECEIVED REHILL'S MESSAGE, MORE AND MORE PEOPLE BEGAN TO POUR INTO THE BAGH THROUGH A NARROW PASSAGE, ITS MAIN ENTRANCE.

ARRE BHAII! THAT'S ALL BLUFF, WHY SHOULD THERE BE TROUBLE? WE ARE JUST PEACEFUL CITIZENS. HAVEN'T WE ANY RIGHTS?

I HOPE THERE WILL BE NO TROUBLE AT THE MEETING. THEY SAY THE MILITARY HAVE MADE A LOT OF PREPARATIONS!



SOON THE CROWD SWELLED INTO A BIG GATHERING. THERE WERE TEENAGED BOYS AND CHILDREN.

LET US HEAR THE MESSAGES OUR LEADERS HAVE SENT TO US.

KITCHLEWJI KI JAI!

SATYAPALJI KI JAI!



THAT DAY HAPPENED ALSO TO BE BAISAKHI, THE NEW YEAR'S DAY, PARTICULARLY AUSPICIOUS TO THE SIKHS. THE TOWN WAS FULL OF HOLIDAYING PEASANTS FROM NEIGHBOURING VILLAGES. THE GOLDEN TEMPLE WAS NEARBY AND AFTER A DIP IN THE HOLY TANK THEY HAD COME TO THE BAGH TO RELAX.



SOON THE MEETING BEGAN AND MANY SPEAKERS ADDRESSED THE GATHERING.

FRIENDS, OUR LEADER DR. KITCHLEW HAS BEEN TAKEN FROM US BUT HIS PRESENCE LOOMS LARGE IN OUR HEARTS. IT IS HE WHO NOW PRESIDES OVER OUR MEETING THOUGH HE IS NOT PHYSICALLY PRESENT!



SUDDENLY —



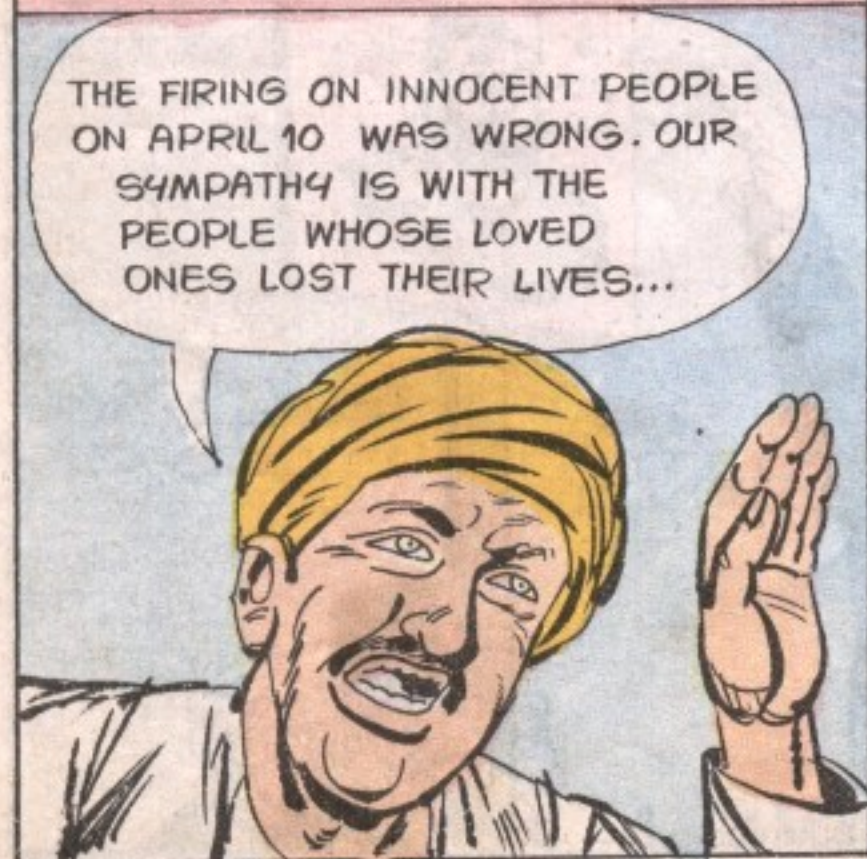
PEOPLE PANICKED, BUT A POLITICAL WORKER REASSURED THE CROWD.



THE CROWD QUIETENED DOWN.

EIGHT SPEAKERS ADDRESSED THE GATHERING—

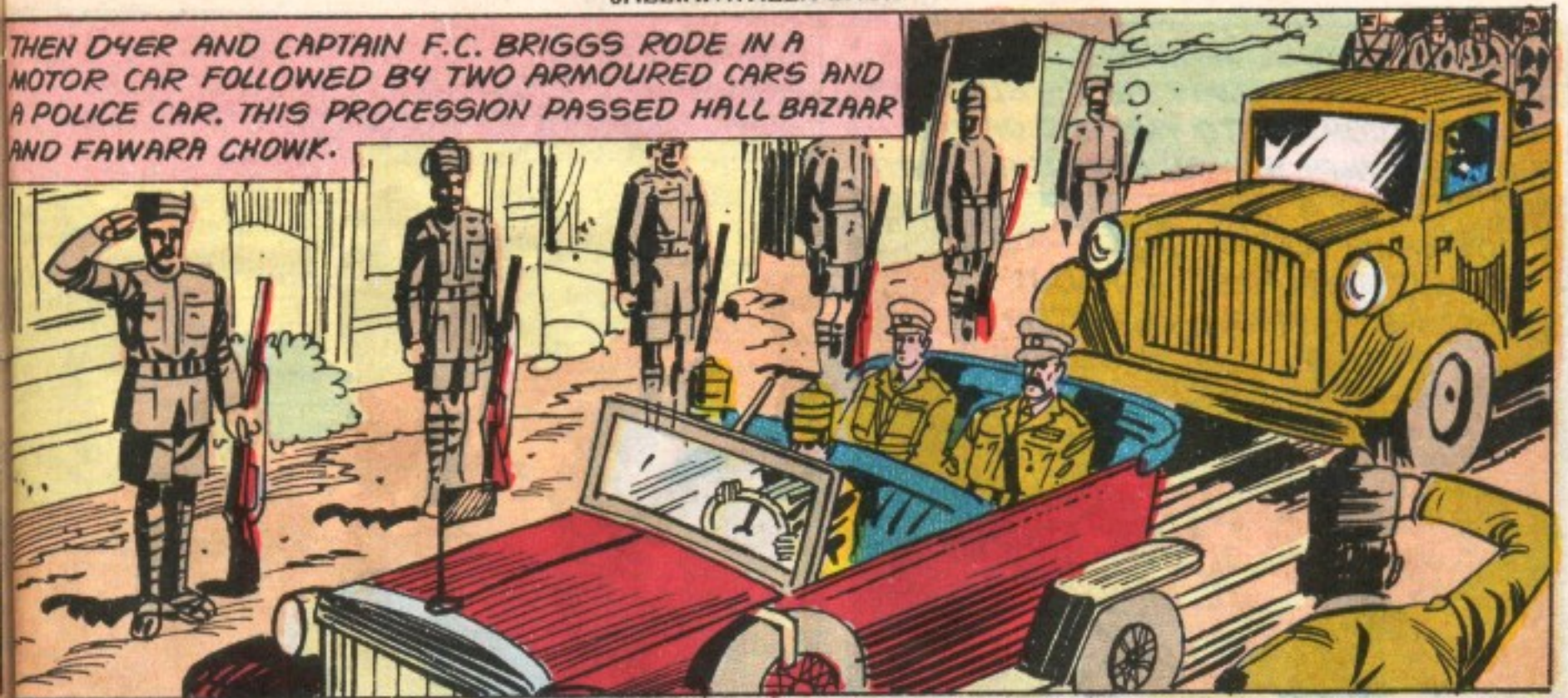
THE FIRING ON INNOCENT PEOPLE ON APRIL 10 WAS WRONG. OUR SYMPATHY IS WITH THE PEOPLE WHOSE LOVED ONES LOST THEIR LIVES...



MEANWHILE, DYER HAD ASSEMBLED A STRIKING FORCE OF NINETY MEN. AT 4:15 P.M. IT WAS SENT TO JALLIANWALLA BAGH.



THEN DYER AND CAPTAIN F.C. BRIGGS RODE IN A MOTOR CAR FOLLOWED BY TWO ARMoured CARS AND A POLICE CAR. THIS PROCESSION PASSED HALL BAZAAR AND FAWARA CHOWK.



AT THE NARROW ENTRANCE TO THE BAGH—

THAT PASSAGE IS TOO NARROW. THE ARMoured CARS CANNOT GO IN THERE!

TOO BAD! OUR MACHINE GUNS WOULD HAVE MADE SHORT WORK OF THOSE PEOPLE IN THERE!



HOWEVER, OUR ARMED TROOPS WILL PROBABLY DO JUST AS WELL!



DYER AND BRIGGS ADVANCED UP THE NARROW PASSAGEWAY FOLLOWED BY THE TROOPS. COMING TO THE END OF THE PASSAGE THEY SAW AN IMMENSE CROWD.

HOW MANY PEOPLE DO YOU THINK ARE ASSEMBLED HERE, BRIGGS?

ABOUT 5,000 OR SO, I BELIEVE.



BUT IT LATER TURNED OUT THAT THERE WERE AT LEAST 25,000.

WITHIN 30 SECONDS DYER DEPLOYED HIS TROOPS—THE GURKHAS TO THE LEFT, AND THE BALUCHIS TO THE RIGHT.



AROUND 5:15, THE NINTH SPEAKER, DURGA DAS VAID, THE EDITOR OF WAQT, WAS SPEAKING.

...THE REPRESSIVE POLICY OF THE GOVERNMENT...



HE WAS INTERRUPTED BY ALARMED SHOUTS.

THEY HAVE COME! THEY HAVE COME!

OH, GOD!

ARMED SOLDIERS!



SECONDS LATER, GENERAL DYER GAVE THE ORDER—

FIRE!



THERE WAS A FLASH...



... BUT THE PEOPLE JUST COULD NOT BELIEVE THEIR EYES.



BUT THE GRIM REALITY OF THE SITUATION WAS REALISED AS A NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN THE CROWD FELL, SOME DEAD AND SOME WOUNDED.



BLINDLY SOME PEOPLE BEGAN TO RUN.



BUT WHERE COULD THEY GO? THE SOLDIERS WITH THEIR GUNS WERE AT THE ENTRANCE.



WHILE THEY WERE RUNNING HELTER-SKELTER, SOME FORWARD, SOME BACKWARD, THE SOLDIERS WERE RE-LOADING AND FIRING. THEY FIRED LOW, AIMING AT MAXIMUM KILLING.



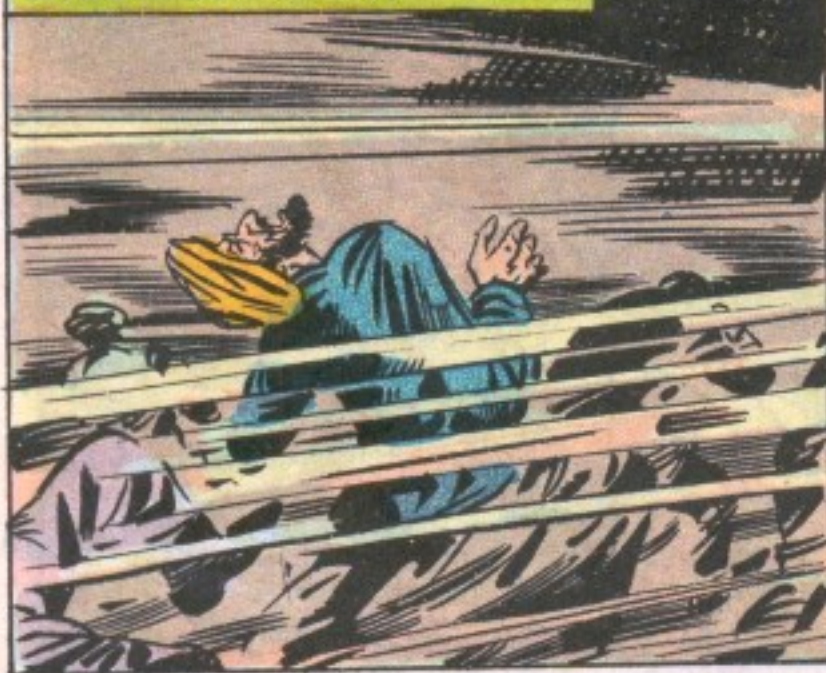
THERE WERE FOUR OR FIVE SMALL GAPS AMONG THE BUILDINGS SURROUNDING THE BAGH AND PEOPLE STARTED RUNNING TOWARDS THOSE.



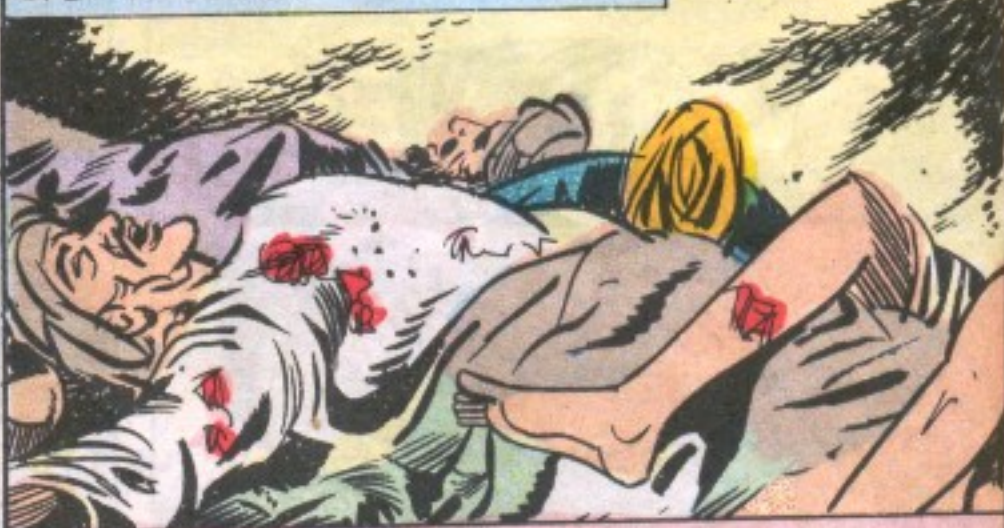
ON DYER'S ORDER THE GUNS WERE DIRECTED STRAIGHT AT THE NARROW GAPS THROUGH WHICH PEOPLE WERE TRYING TO ESCAPE.



PEOPLE CONTINUED TO FALL, BUT STILL THE SHOOTING DID NOT STOP.



WHEN THE SHOOTING STOPPED TEN MINUTES LATER THERE WERE HEAPS OF DEAD BODIES EVERYWHERE.



AT LEAST ONE THOUSAND PEOPLE WERE KILLED AND THREE TIMES THAT NUMBER WOUNDED.

THE WOUNDED CRIED OUT.



BUT THE SOLDIERS JUST MARCHED AWAY.



EVEN IN A WAR, WOUNDED ENEMY SOLDIERS ARE GIVEN FIRST AID. BUT AT JALLIANWALLA BAGH UNARMED CITIZENS WERE ABANDONED TO DIE IN MISERY.

TOWARDS NIGHTFALL, JALLIANWALLA BAGH WAS LIKE A BATTLEFIELD STREWN WITH THE DEAD AND WOUNDED. A FEW DID VENTURE TO COME AND LOOK FOR THEIR RELATIVES.



BUT THEY HAD TO GO AWAY SOON FOR FEAR OF BEING FIRED AT AGAIN AFTER THE CURFEW HOUR OF 8:00 P.M.



THAT NIGHT, A TRIUMPHANT DYER MADE A TOUR OF THE STREETS TO SEE THAT HIS CURFEW ORDERS WERE BEING OBEYED..

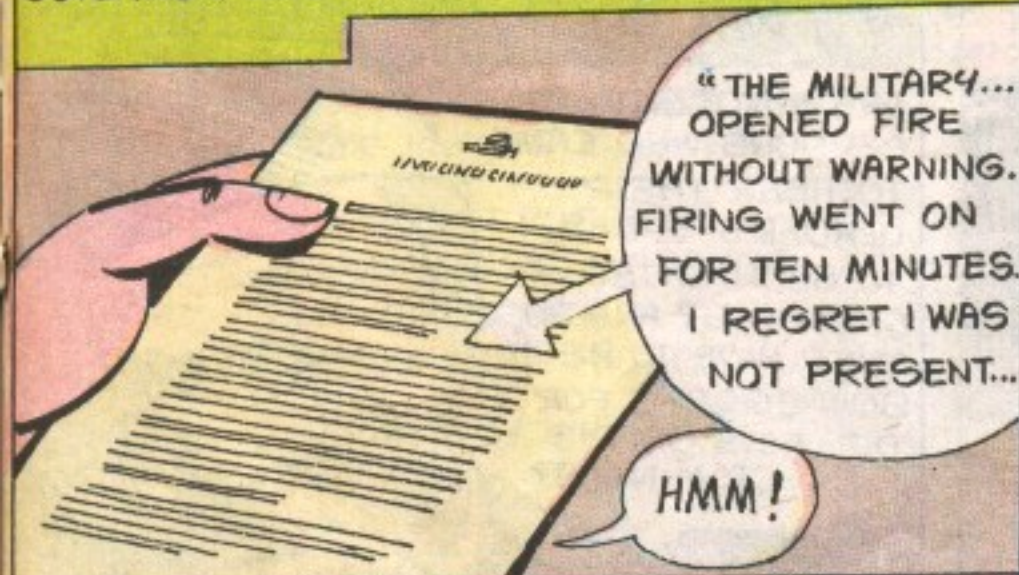


ALL IS SILENT!
NOT A SOUL TO
BE SEEN! I HAVE
SUCCEEDED!



NOW THAT THEY
HAVE HAD A TASTE
OF BRITISH MIGHT,
WILL THEY DARE
TRY THEIR OLD TRICKS
AGAIN? WILL THEY
LOOT OUR BANKS, ILL-
TREAT OUR WOMEN?
WILL THEY DARE?

ON APRIL 14 AT LAHORE, O. DWYER THE LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR WAS GIVEN A LETTER FROM IRVING.

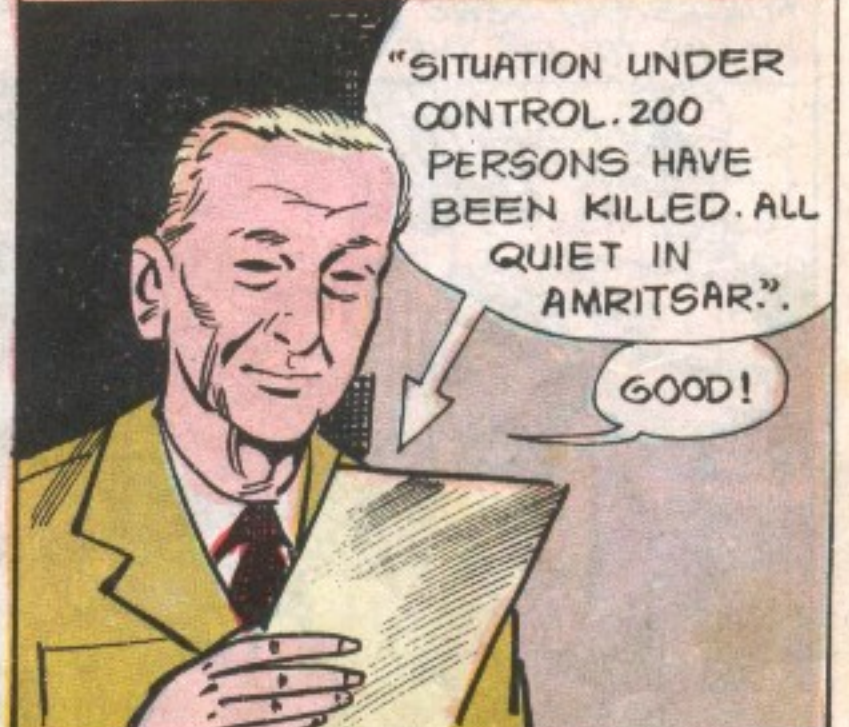


"THE MILITARY...
OPENED FIRE
WITHOUT WARNING.
FIRING WENT ON
FOR TEN MINUTES.
I REGRET I WAS
NOT PRESENT..."

HMM!

AT LAST, MR. IRVING HAD REALISED WHAT IT MEANT TO RELY ON MILITARY POWER, HAVING ABDICATED FROM HIS CIVILIAN DUTIES.

THE LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR ALSO RECEIVED A MESSAGE FROM DYER.



"SITUATION UNDER
CONTROL. 200
PERSONS HAVE
BEEN KILLED. ALL
QUIET IN
AMRITSAR."

GOOD!

WHAT HAPPENED AT JALLIANWALLA BAGH CAME TO BE TERMED "A FRIGHTFUL ACT" BY ALL RIGHT-MINDED BRITISH PEOPLE. BUT THE GOVERNMENT REMAINED UNPERTURBED. EVERY ATTEMPT WAS MADE TO COVER UP THE "FRIGHTFULNESS" OF THE DEED.



ONLY 200 DEAD? WHAT'S ALL THE FUSS ABOUT? WE HAVE PREVENTED A RECURRENCE OF "EXCESSES". WE HAVE CRUSHED A REBELLION.

ACTUALLY IT WAS LATER ESTIMATED THAT AT LEAST 1000 HAD DIED, AND 3000 HAD BEEN WOUNDED.

MANY SENIOR BRITISH OFFICIALS APPROVED OF DYER'S ACTION.

THE WISDOM OF GENERAL DYER'S ACTION HAS BEEN FULLY PROVED BY THE FACT THAT THERE HAS BEEN NO FURTHER TROUBLE OF ANY SORT IN AMRITSAR.



DYER HAS AVERTED SOMETHING LIKE A GENERAL REBELLION THROUGHOUT THE WHOLE OF NORTHERN INDIA!

THE BRITISH TRIED TO SUPPRESS THE JALLIANWALLA BAGH EPISODE. THERE WAS CENSORSHIP IN THE INDIAN PAPERS AND PEOPLE WERE NOT ALLOWED FREELY INTO PUNJAB. BUT NEWS WENT ROUND BY WORD OF MOUTH, ALL THE SAME.



THE JALLIANWALLA BAGH INCIDENT DID ENORMOUS HARM TO THE BRITISH IMAGE IN INDIA. FOR INSTANCE, MOTILAL NEHRU HAD ALWAYS BELIEVED IN BRITISH FAIR PLAY AND JUSTICE. NOW HIS CONFIDENCE IN IT WAS SHAKEN.

ARE INNOCENT PERSONS, WHO CAME TO HEAR THEIR LEADERS SPEAK, TO BE TREATED AS CRIMINALS? AND DO THEY HAVE TO BE SCAPEGOATS FOR THE ACTS OF THE CRIMINALS?

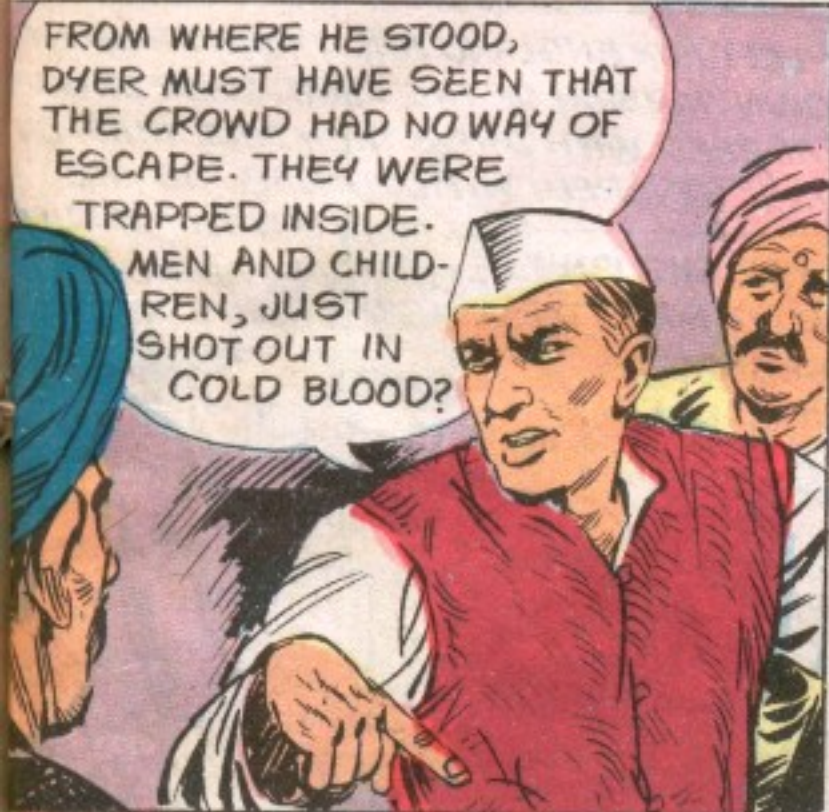


LEADING CONGRESSMEN DEMANDED THE RIGHT TO ENTER PUNJAB TO INVESTIGATE. WHEN FINALLY THEY WERE ALLOWED TO SEE THE PLACE FOR THEMSELVES, THEY WERE SHOCKED.

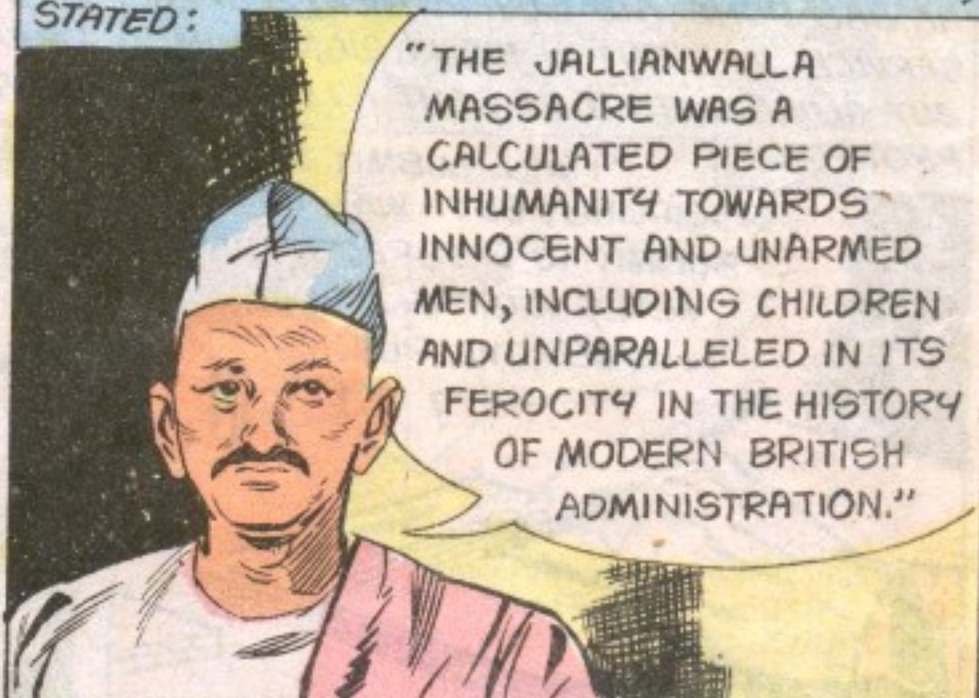
THE BULLET MARKS ON THE WALLS SHOW THAT DYER AIMED DIRECTLY WHERE THE FLEEING CROWDS WERE THICKEST! HE MUST HAVE JUST MOWED THEM DOWN!



FROM WHERE HE STOOD, DYER MUST HAVE SEEN THAT THE CROWD HAD NO WAY OF ESCAPE. THEY WERE TRAPPED INSIDE. MEN AND CHILDREN, JUST SHOT OUT IN COLD BLOOD?



THE NON-OFFICIAL ENQUIRY COMMITTEE, OF WHICH GANDHIJI WAS AN IMPORTANT MEMBER, STATED:



"THE JALLIANWALLA MASSACRE WAS A CALCULATED PIECE OF INHUMANITY TOWARDS INNOCENT AND UNARMED MEN, INCLUDING CHILDREN AND UNPARALLELED IN ITS FEROCITY IN THE HISTORY OF MODERN BRITISH ADMINISTRATION."

AS THE NEWS SLOWLY TRICKLED THROUGH INDIA, THERE WAS A GENERAL OUTCRY. THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT COULD HIDE THE FACTS NO LONGER. FINALLY THE GOVERNMENT WAS FORCED TO SET UP A COMMITTEE OF ENQUIRY. IT WAS CALLED THE HUNTER COMMITTEE.

WAS IT POSSIBLE FOR YOU TO DISPERSE THE CROWD WITHOUT FIRING?



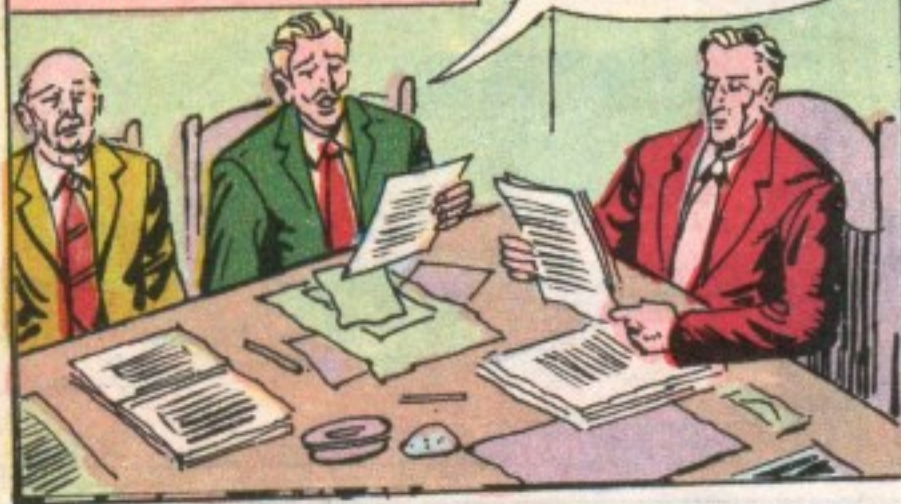
I COULD HAVE DISPERSED THEM FOR SOME TIME. BUT THEN THEY WOULD ALL HAVE COME BACK AND LAUGHED AT ME AND I CONSIDERED I WOULD BE MAKING MYSELF A FOOL.



THE HUNTER COMMITTEE CRITICISED DYER ON TWO GROUNDS. DYER HAD OPENED FIRE WITHOUT WARNING AND HE HAD GONE ON FIRING AFTER THE CROWD HAD BEGUN TO DISPERSE.

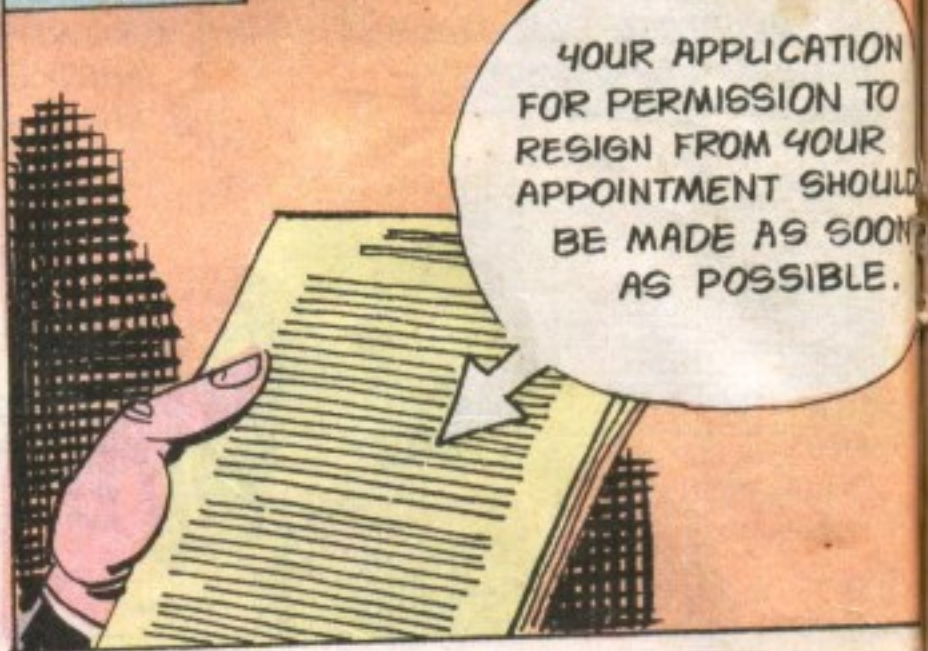
TILL THEN DYER HAD BEEN CONSIDERED A HERO BY THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT. BUT NOW THE TIDE WAS TURNING AGAINST HIM.

HIS ACTION WAS IN EXCESS OF HIS BRIEF. THE GOVERNMENT CANNOT ACCEPT HIS EXTREME STEP.



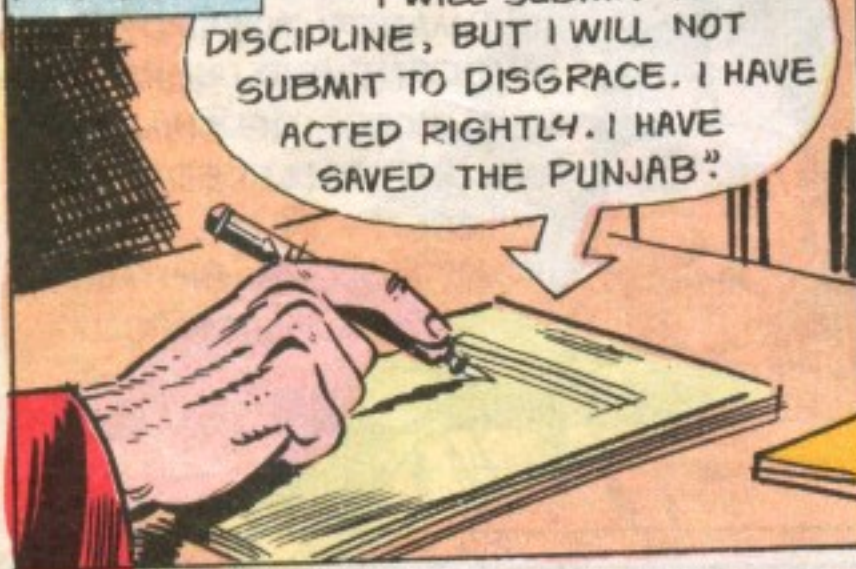
A MONTH LATER DYER RECEIVED A LETTER FROM THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF.

YOUR APPLICATION FOR PERMISSION TO RESIGN FROM YOUR APPOINTMENT SHOULD BE MADE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.



DYER RECEIVED A SHOCK. HE BELIEVED HE HAD DONE THE GOVERNMENT A GREAT SERVICE. HE SENT IN HIS RESIGNATION, BUT ALONG WITH IT HE SENT A LETTER OF PROTEST.

"I WILL SUBMIT TO DISCIPLINE, BUT I WILL NOT SUBMIT TO DISGRACE. I HAVE ACTED RIGHTLY. I HAVE SAVED THE PUNJAB."



DYER LEFT FOR ENGLAND AND THERE PRESENTED HIS OWN VERSION OF THE CASE. MANY ENGLISH MEN AGREED WITH DYER. THEY FELT THAT BY DEALING SEVERELY WITH PUNJAB, HE HAD PREVENTED THE TROUBLE FROM SPREADING TO OTHER STATES.

DYER IS RIGHT. ISN'T HE BEING MADE THE SCAPEGOAT OF POLITICIANS?

OF COURSE! HE SAVED THE BRITISH EMPIRE!



AS FAR AS INDIANS WERE CONCERNED, THE JALLIANWALLA BAGH EPISODE WAS THE BEGINNING OF THE END OF THE BRITISH RAJ.

