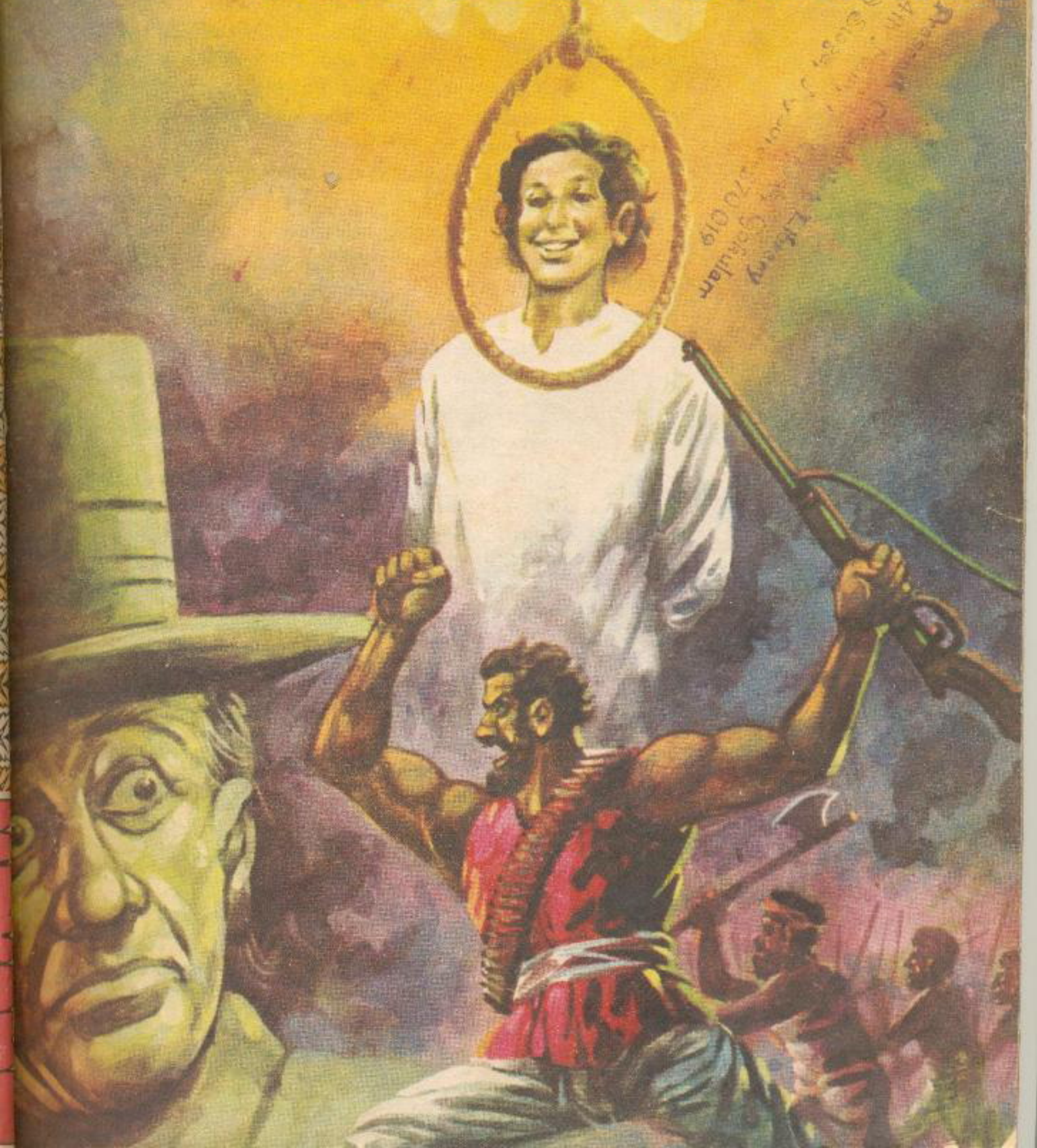




THE MARCH TO FREEDOM - 3

The Saga of
**INDIAN
REVOLUTIONARIES**

No. 360 Rs. 4/-



Amar Chitra Katha

No. 360

July 1, 1986

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Published by:

H. G. MIRCHANDANI

for IBH Publishers Pvt. Ltd.,
Mahalaxmi Chambers,
22, Bhulabhai Desai Road,
Bombay 400 026 and printed by him
at IBH Printers, Marol Naka,
Mathuradas Vissanji Road,
Andheri (East), Bombay 400 059.

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Bombay 400 026.

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Distributors in U. S. A.
Admans Enterprises Inc.
1123 Broadway Suite 1010
New York N.Y. 10010

Subscription: (in India only)
Rs. 48/- for 12 issues and Rs. 96/-
for 24 issues. (Add Rs. 8/-
for outstation cheques).

Sole Authorised Agency for
Subscriptions: Partha Books Division,
Nav Prabhat Chambers,
Ranade Road, Dadar,
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The Saga of INDIAN REVOLUTIONARIES

The Swadeshi Movement, aiming at the boycott of British goods in India, gradually gave way to more violent methods by which a section of the youth began to demand independence. They resorted to armed conflict, either singly or in groups or by allying with the enemies of Britain. There was a spurt of incidents when British officials were violently and deliberately murdered. In very many cases when these revolutionaries were put on trial and sometimes hanged, it was clear from their statements in court that the revolutionary fire burning within their hearts was eager to engulf the whole nation. The need for creating a revolutionary spirit in the country at large was strongly felt, as also to strike terror into the hearts of the British tyrants. It was this need which produced the Saga of Indian Revolutionaries.

We have referred among others to the following books in preparing this volume:

1. Ajeya (Kannada) — Babu Krishnamurthy, 1974
2. Lokmanya Tilak — Dhananjay Keer, 1959
3. The Roll of Honour — Kali Charan Ghosh, 1965
4. Savarkar and His Times — Dhananjay Keer
5. The Sedition Committee Report — Government of India, 1918
6. Story of Indian Revolution — A.C. Guha, Ed., 1972
7. Swadeshi Movement in Bengal 1903-1906 — Sumit Sarkar, 1973
8. Two Great Indian Revolutionaries — Uma Mukherjee, 1966
9. Vasudeo Balvant Phadke — V.S. Joshi, 1959



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Mahabharata - 17

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The Saga of Indian Revolutionaries

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OCTOBER 22, 1879, PUNE. VASUDEO BALWANT PHADKE, THE FIRST OF OUR REVOLUTIONARIES STOOD TRIAL IN THE MAGISTRATES' COURT. HE WAS CHARGED WITH CONSPIRACY TO WAGE WAR AGAINST THE QUEEN EMPRESS.

THE GOVERNMENT PROSECUTOR QUOTED FROM THE DIARY IN WHICH PHADKE HAD RECORDED HIS THOUGHTS.

THE INHABITANTS OF INDIA ARE STARVING TO DEATH UNDER BRITISH RULE...

...THESE DYING PEOPLE ARE LIKE THE CHILDREN BORN TO THE SAME MOTHERLAND TO WHICH I WAS BORN. THAT THEY SHOULD DIE OF STARVATION CRYING FOR FOOD... AND I SHOULD EARN MY PETTY LIVELIHOOD LIKE A DOG I CANNOT BEAR...

THINKING DAY AND NIGHT OF THIS AND A THOUSAND OTHER MISERIES... I USED TO WAKE UP IN THE DEAD OF THE NIGHT AND BROOD OVER THE OVERTHROW OF THE BRITISH RULE.

...UNTIL I WENT ALMOST MAD WITH THE IDEA.



THE ONE PASSION WITH VASUDEO PHADKE WAS TO OVERTHROW THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT IN INDIA. IN HIS DIARY HE WRITES: —



AN INFANT CANNOT POSSESS THE STRENGTH OF A GROWN-UP MAN—IT TAKES WEARY MONTHS AND YEARS BEFORE IT COMES TO MATURITY. SO WHY COULDN'T A SMALL REBELLION RAISED ON A STRONG FOOTING EVENTUALLY LEAD TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF OUR RAJ?



VASUDEO WON OVER THE RAMOSHIS, A COMMUNITY OF WARRIORS, SUPPLIED THEM WITH ARMS AND INSTIGATED THEM TO RAID THE HOUSES OF THE RICH.



LATER PHADKE WON OVER THE WAR-LIKE ROHILLAS. HIS PLAN IS EVIDENT FROM WHAT HE HAS WRITTEN IN HIS DIARY:

I WOULD HAVE SENT MY MEN TO DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE COUNTRY TO INSTIGATE A REBELLION. DAKS WOULD HAVE BEEN STOPPED. THE TELEGRAPH WIRE WOULD HAVE BEEN CUT. RAILWAY LINES WOULD HAVE BEEN BROKEN DOWN. THOUSANDS OF OUR COUNTRYMEN WOULD HAVE JOINED US TO ESTABLISH AN INDIAN REPUBLIC.





"FORTUNATELY, YOUR HONOUR, PHADKE'S DREAM NEVER CAME TRUE. HE WAS OVERPOWERED AND CAPTURED BY MAJOR DANIELL."



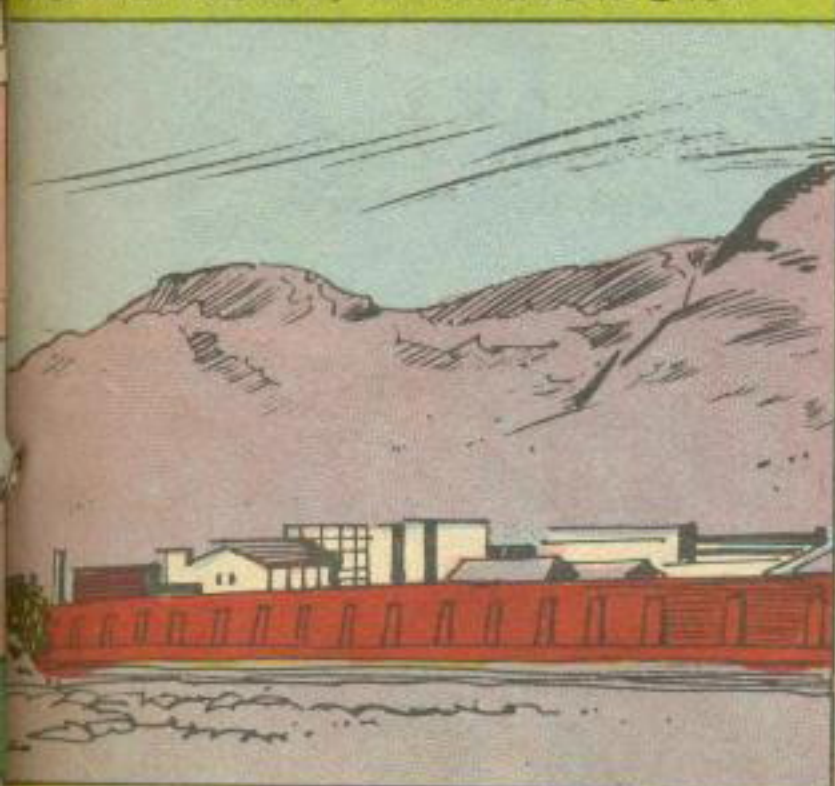
VASUDEO BALWANT PHADKE STOOD LIKE A ROCK UNTIL THE JUDGEMENT WAS DELIVERED.

THE SENTENCE I PASS UPON YOU IS TRANSPORTATION FOR LIFE.



OH, MY COUNTRYMEN, YOU HAVE NOT DERIVED ANY BENEFIT FROM ME. I COULD NOT ACCOMPLISH MY TASK. PLEASE PARDON ME FOR MY FAILURES.

VASUDEO PHADKE WAS SENT TO JAIL IN ADEN, A BRITISH COLONY, IN THE MIDDLE EAST.



HE ESCAPED FROM THE JAIL ONLY TO BE CAPTURED AGAIN AND DETAINED TILL HIS DEATH ON FEBRUARY 17, 1883.

TODAY AT SHIRDHON, HIS BIRTHPLACE, STANDS A MEMORIAL PILLAR WITH A FLAME BLAZING ATOP.



THE WORDS OF PHADKE MADE A DEEP IMPRESSION IN THE HEARTS OF PATRIOTS, PARTICULARLY IN MAHARASHTRA. ON JUNE 12, 1897, AT THE SHIVAJI FESTIVAL BEING CELEBRATED IN PUNE —

MERELY RECITING SHIVAJI'S STORY LIKE A PARROT WILL NOT BRING INDEPENDENCE... YOU MUST TAKE UP THE SWORD AND FIGHT...



THE SPEAKER WAS DAMODAR HARI CHAPEKAR.

DAMODAR CHAPEKAR WAS A WITNESS TO THE HUMILIATIONS HIS COUNTRYMEN WERE SUBJECTED TO BY RAND, WHO HAD BEEN DESIGNATED AS THE PLAGUE COMMISSIONER.

ALL THOSE SUSPECTED OF PLAGUE ARE TO BE SENT TO THE SEGREGATION CAMP. EXAMINE THEM CAREFULLY. STRIP THESE MEN AND WOMEN.



MEN, WOMEN AND CHILDREN WERE DRAGGED OUT OF THEIR HOMES AND DRIVEN TO THE SEGREGATION CAMP.

MY COUNTRYMEN ARE INNOCENT AND FRIGHTENED. RAND PUSHES THEM AROUND AS IF THEY WERE A HERD OF CATTLE. HE MUST NOT GO UNPUNISHED.



DAMODAR AND A BAND OF YOUNG MEN INCLUDING HIS TWO BROTHERS PRACTISED TARGET SHOOTING.



THE DAY CHAPEKAR CHOSE TO STRIKE WAS JUNE 22, 1897. ON THIS DAY THE GOLDEN JUBILEE OF QUEEN VICTORIA'S REIGN WAS TO BE CELEBRATED IN PUNE.



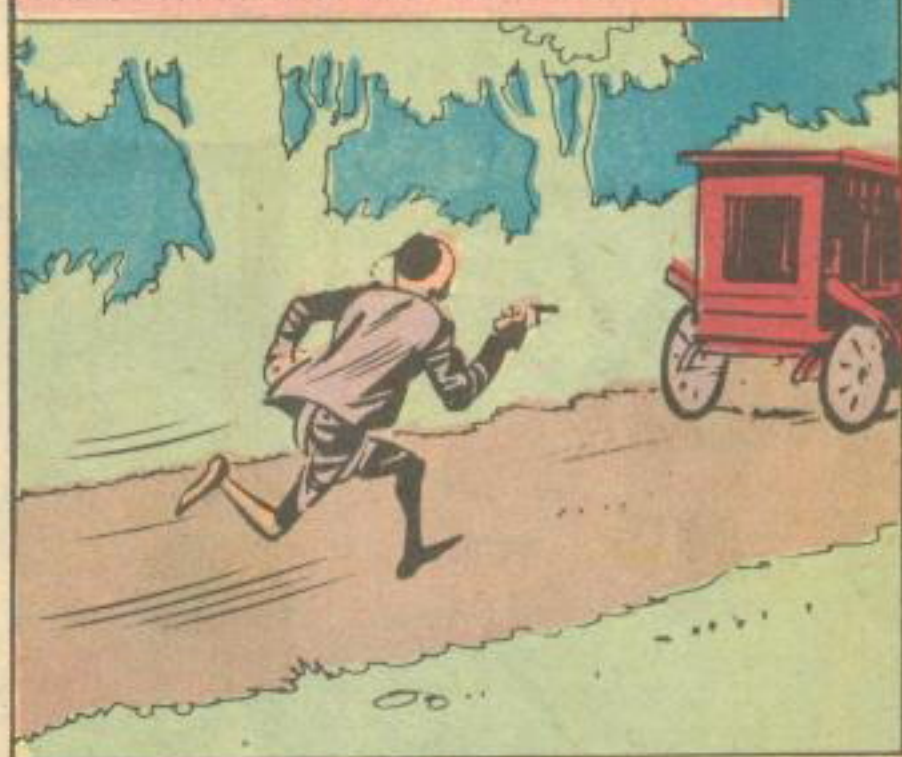
RAND DROVE OUT OF GOVERNMENT HOUSE AFTER THE PARTY.



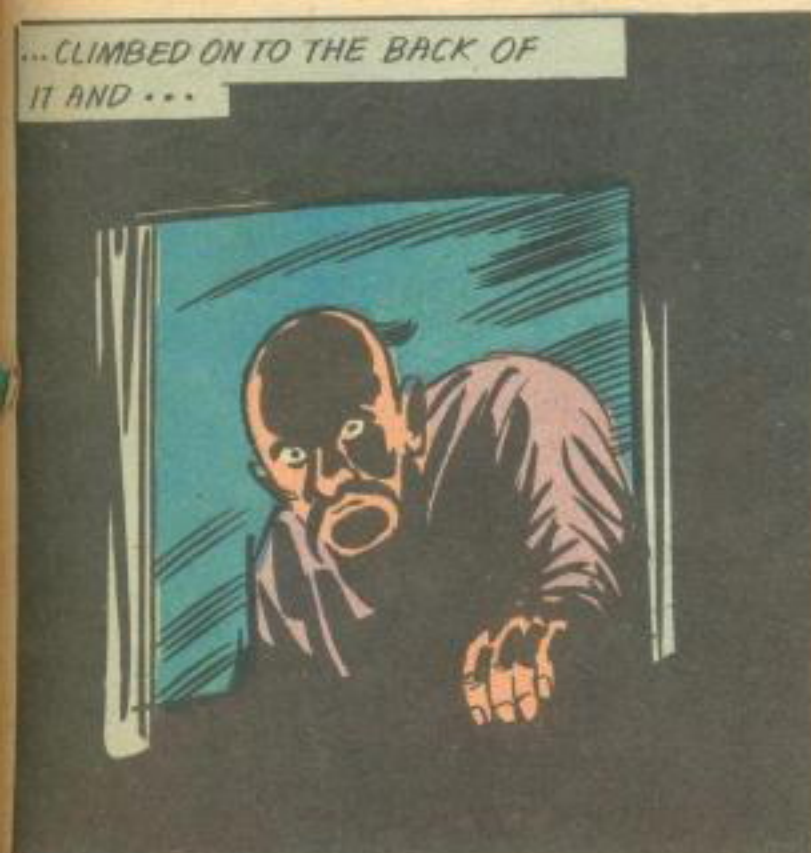
AS THE CARRIAGE APPROACHED THE HIDEOUT OF THE CHAPEKAR BROTHERS, BALKRISHNA CHAPEKAR CALLED OUT —



DAMODAR RAN AFTER THE CARRIAGE...



... CLIMBED ON TO THE BACK OF IT AND ...

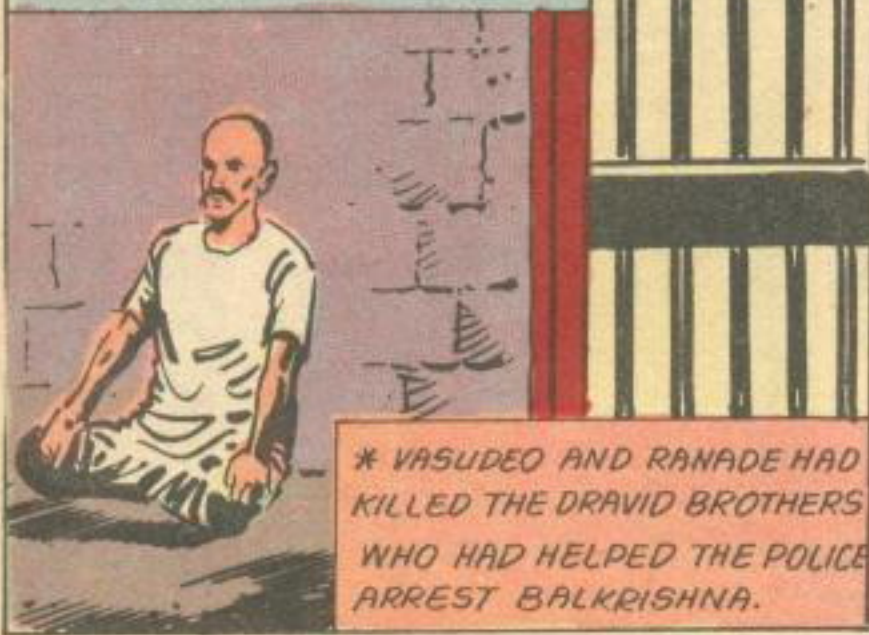


... FIRED AT RAND ...



... AND THEN DISAPPEARED IN THE DARK.

A FEW MONTHS LATER, DAMODAR AND BALKRISHNA WERE ARRESTED. SUBSEQUENTLY VASUDEO, THE THIRD BROTHER AND HIS ASSOCIATE RANADE* WERE ALSO TAKEN PRISONERS.



* VASUDEO AND RANADE HAD KILLED THE DRAVID BROTHERS WHO HAD HELPED THE POLICE ARREST BALKRISHNA.

HOLDING A COPY OF THE BHAGAVADGITA, DAMODAR CHAPEKAR MOUNTED THE SCAFFOLD ON APRIL 18, 1898.



IN MAY, 1899, VASUDEO CHAPEKAR WAS LED OUT OF HIS CELL. AS HE PASSED BY THE CELL IN WHICH BALKRISHNA WAS HELD —



GOODBYE, BROTHER — I AM GOING.



GO VASU. I'LL FOLLOW YOU.

MAY 8. VASUDEO CHAPEKAR WAS HANGED.
MAY 10. RANADE WAS HANGED.
MAY 12. BALKRISHNA CHAPEKAR WAS HANGED.

LATER SISTER NIVEDITA VISITED PUNE TO PAY HER REGARDS TO THE MOTHER OF THE CHAPEKARS. THE OLD LADY WHO HAD GIVEN AWAY THREE SONS TO THE STRUGGLE FOR FREEDOM REMAINED CALM AND UNCOMPLAINING.



IN 1905, THE BRITISH PARTITIONED BENGAL ON COMMUNAL BASIS AND USED FORCE TO PUT DOWN THE POPULAR PROTEST. WHAT BEGAN AS AN AGITATION FOR A UNITED BENGAL TURNED INTO THE LARGER STRUGGLE FOR THE FREEDOM OF THE COUNTRY. AUROBINDO GHOSH SAID —

TYRANTS HAVE TRIED BUT HAVE THEY EVER SUCCEEDED IN REPRESSING THE NATURAL LOVE OF FREEDOM IN MAN?

REPPRESSED, IT HAS GROWN IN STRENGTH; CRUSHED UNDER THE HEEL OF A TYRANT...

...IT HAS ASSUMED A MYRIAD FORMS...

... AND IN SUCCESSIVE INCARNATIONS GAINED IN STRENGTH AND INSPIRATION FROM REPEATED FAILURES AND ENDLESS SUFFERINGS...

... IT HAS RISEN FINALLY, TO OVERTHROW ITS OPPRESSOR FOR GOOD...

THE MEEK DID RISE IN REBELLION. SUSHIL KUMAR, A 15-YEAR-OLD LAD WHO COULD NOT TOLERATE A BRITISH OFFICIAL HOLDING A LATHI ON AN UNARMED CROWD...



... SPRANG LIKE A TIGER...



... WRESTED THE LATHI FROM THE HANDS OF THE SURPRISED OFFICIAL...



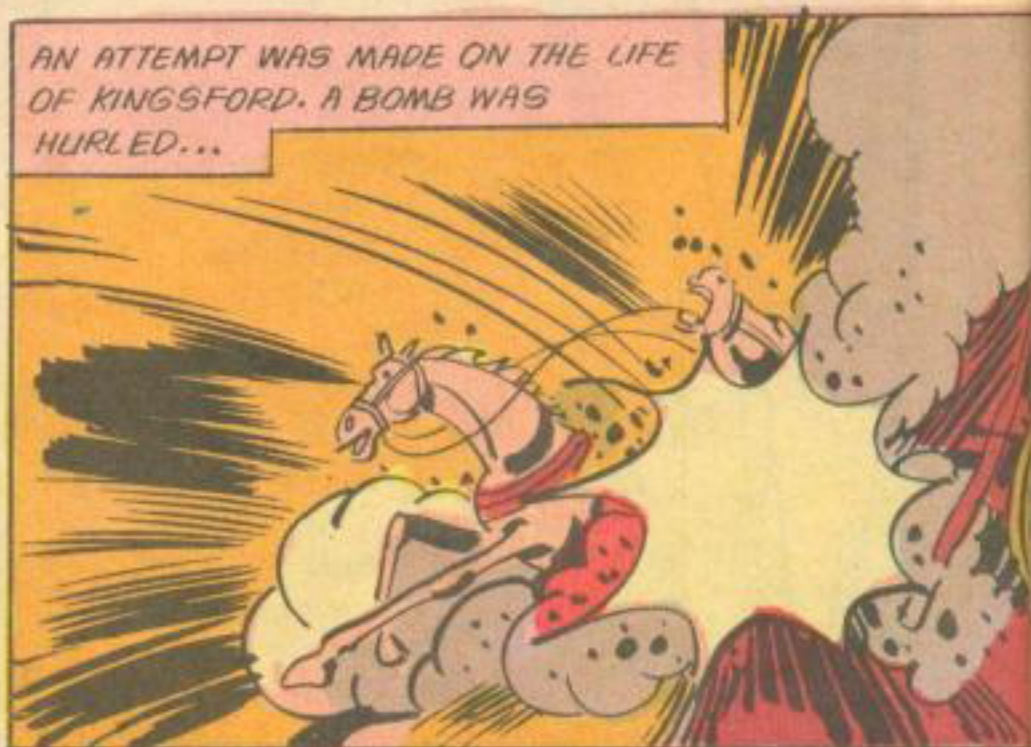
... AND USED IT ON THE BRITISH OFFICIAL HIMSELF.



SUSHIL WAS TAKEN INTO CUSTODY. MAGISTRATE KINGSFORD AWARDED HIM 16 LASHES.



AN ATTEMPT WAS MADE ON THE LIFE OF KINGSFORD. A BOMB WAS HURLED...



... BUT KINGSFORD BEING IN ANOTHER CARRIAGE ESCAPED UNHURT. TWO BRITISH LADIES FELL VICTIM TO THE FIRST BOMB ATTACK.

PRAFULLA CHAKI, A MEMBER OF THE BOMB SQUAD KILLED HIMSELF, WHEN HIS ARREST SEEMED IMMINENT...



...AND KHUDIRAM BOSE, THE OTHER REVOLUTIONARY, STOOD TRIAL.

I AM SORRY TWO INNOCENT LADIES WERE KILLED. MY ONLY REGRET IS THAT KINGSFORD IS STILL ALIVE.



KHUDIRAM WAS SENTENCED TO DEATH.

I HAVE READ THE GITA. I DO NOT FEAR DEATH.



KHUDIRAM'S MARTYRDOM WAS LIKE THE EXPLOSION OF A BOMB. IT AWAKENED HIS COUNTRYMEN FROM THEIR SLUMBER.

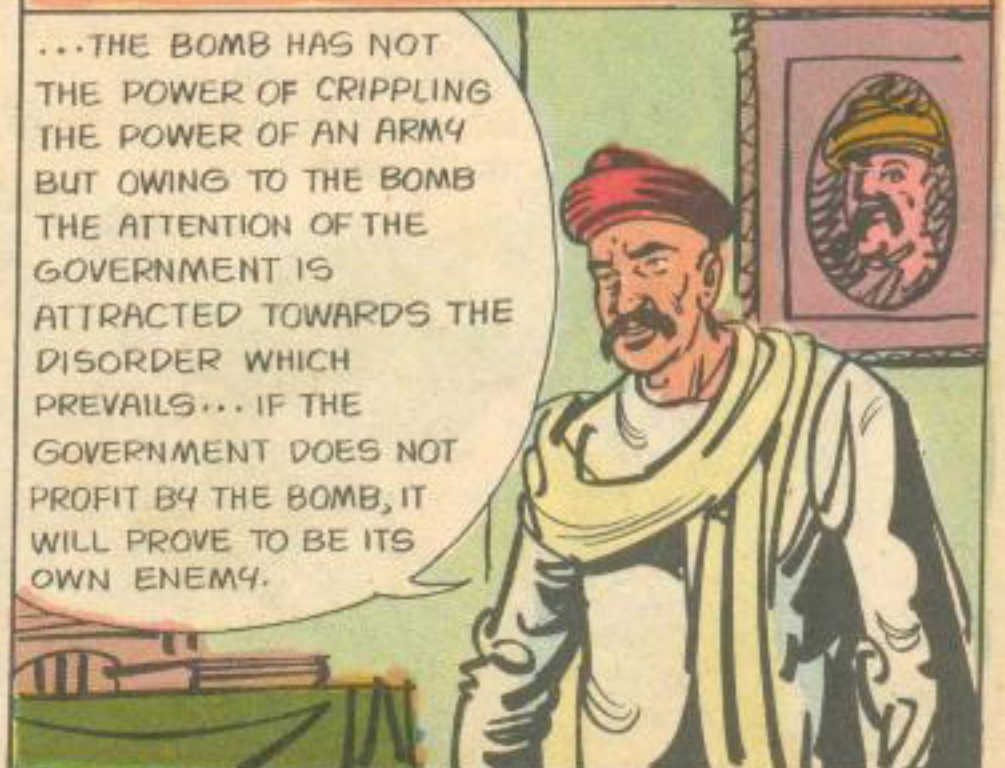


HE MOUNTED THE SCAFFOLD WITH HIS HEAD HELD HIGH. HE WAS CHEERFUL AND SMILING IN THE FACE OF DEATH.



BAL GANGADHAR TILAK DECLARED —

...THE BOMB HAS NOT THE POWER OF CRIPPLING THE POWER OF AN ARMY BUT OWING TO THE BOMB THE ATTENTION OF THE GOVERNMENT IS ATTRACTED TOWARDS THE DISORDER WHICH PREVAILS... IF THE GOVERNMENT DOES NOT PROFIT BY THE BOMB, IT WILL PROVE TO BE ITS OWN ENEMY.



THE POLICE ROUNDED UP A NUMBER OF REVOLUTIONARIES. TWO WERE AWARDED TRANSPORTATION FOR LIFE AND OTHERS VARIOUS TERMS OF IMPRISONMENT. THE REVOLUTIONARIES BOARDED THE BUS WITH A SONG ON THEIR LIPS.

I LEAVE BEHIND ALL MY HOPES // ALL MY THIRST FOR ACTIONS UNAPPEASED // SUPPRESSING THIS AGONY WITHIN MY HEART, // AS I GO TO LIVE IN JAIL.



... AND THEY SANG ALL THE WAY TO THE ...

WHETHER IN JAIL OR IN EXILE // WHEREVER I BE, I DRAW // THE IMAGE OF BHARAT WITHIN MY HEART // AND WORSHIP THIS IDOL DIVINE.



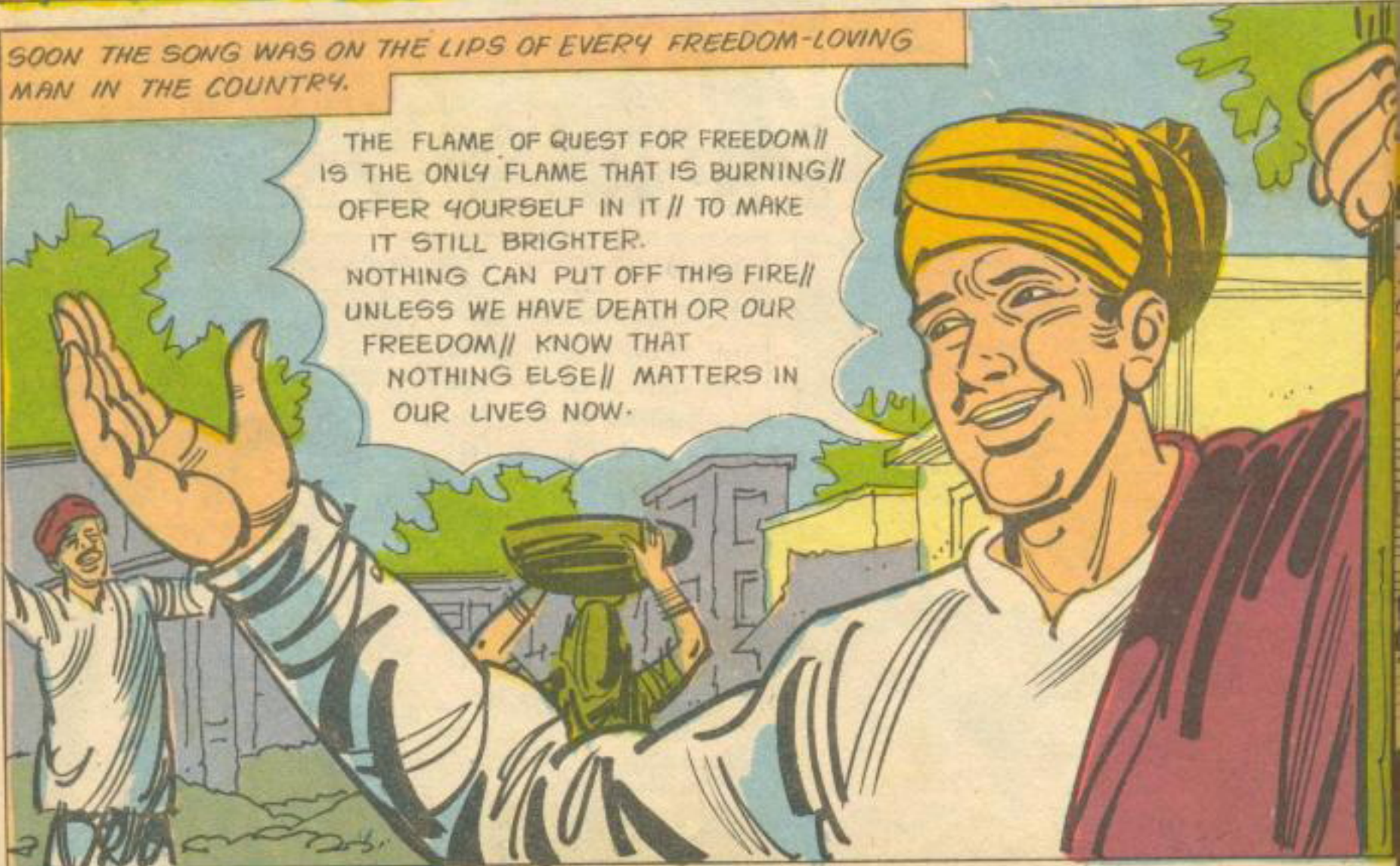
... PRISON ...

THE DAME FATE HERSELF // MAY COME TO RESIST MY EFFORT // FEARLESSLY I WOULD TELL HER, // YOU ARE NOT WELCOME HERE.



SOON THE SONG WAS ON THE LIPS OF EVERY FREEDOM-LOVING MAN IN THE COUNTRY.

THE FLAME OF QUEST FOR FREEDOM // IS THE ONLY FLAME THAT IS BURNING // OFFER YOURSELF IN IT // TO MAKE IT STILL BRIGHTER. NOTHING CAN PUT OFF THIS FIRE // UNLESS WE HAVE DEATH OR OUR FREEDOM // KNOW THAT NOTHING ELSE // MATTERS IN OUR LIVES NOW.



MEANWHILE VINAYAK DAMODAR SAVARKAR AND HIS TEAM OF REVOLUTIONARIES WERE OPERATING FROM INDIA HOUSE IN LONDON.

WE HAVE SENT BOMB MANUALS TO INDIA. OUR FRIENDS NEED MORE GUNS.

IN 1907 AT THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALIST CONGRESS, SAVARKAR'S ASSOCIATE MADAM CAMI UNFURLED THE INDIAN FLAG.

THIS FLAG, THE FLAG OF INDIAN INDEPENDENCE, IS SANCTIFIED BY THE BLOOD OF MARTYRED INDIAN YOUTHS. I CALL UPON YOU, GENTLEMEN, TO RISE AND SALUTE IT.

THE WHOLE ASSEMBLY STOOD UP AS ONE MAN.

SAVARKAR WROTE THE HISTORY OF THE REVOLT OF 1857.

THAT WAS NO MUTINY. IT WAS THE FIRST WAR OF INDEPENDENCE.

HE REMAINED UNDAUNTED WHEN IN HIS HOME-COUNTRY HIS ELDER BROTHER GANESH SAVARKAR WAS SENTENCED TO TRANSPORTATION FOR LIFE. HOWEVER, HIS ASSOCIATE MADANLAL DHINGRA WAS FURIOUS.

VIOLENCE SHALL BE MET WITH VIOLENCE. THE OPPRESSION OF MY COUNTRYMEN WILL NOT GO UNAVENGED.

MADANLAL DHINGRA SHOT SIR CURZON WYLLIE, THE ADVISER TO THE GOVERNMENT ON INDIAN AFFAIRS.

DHINGRA DEFENDED HIS ACT.

I SHED ENGLISH BLOOD ON ENGLISH SOIL INTENTIONALLY AND ON PURPOSE AS A PROTEST AGAINST THE INHUMAN TRANSPORTATION AND HANGING OF INDIAN YOUTH.

LATER, IN A STATEMENT HE EXPLAINED.

I BELIEVE THAT A NATION HELD DOWN BY A FOREIGN BAYONET IS IN A PERPETUAL STATE OF WAR. SINCE OPEN BATTLE IS RENDERED IMPOSSIBLE TO A DISARMED PEOPLE... THE ONLY LESSON REQUIRED IN INDIA AT PRESENT IS TO LEARN HOW TO DIE AND THE ONLY WAY TO TEACH IT IS BY DYING OURSELVES...

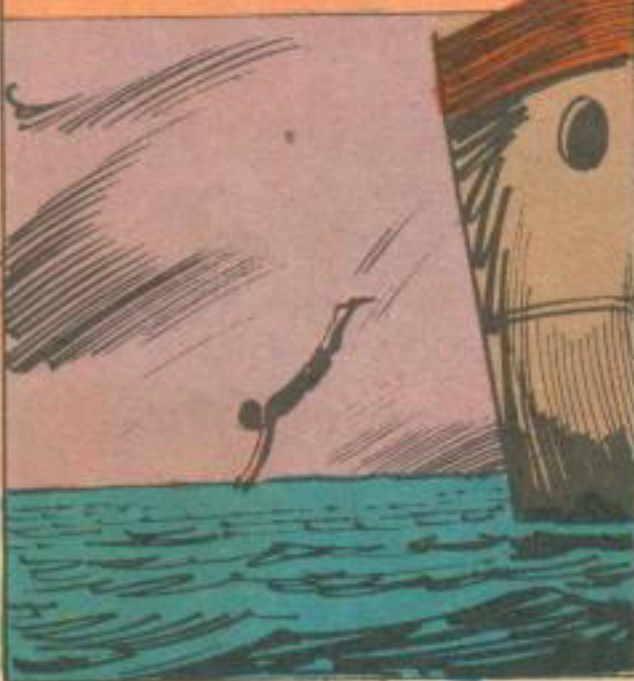
MEANWHILE IN INDIA, JACKSON, THE BRITISH COLLECTOR OF NASIK, WHO HAD TAKEN GANESH SAVARKAR INTO CUSTODY, WAS SHOT DEAD.



VINAYAK SAVARKAR HIMSELF WAS ARRESTED ON MARCH 10, 1910, AT VICTORIA STATION IN LONDON...



SAVARKAR MADE A DARING ATTEMPT TO ESCAPE WHILE BEING BROUGHT TO INDIA.



HOWEVER, HE WAS CAPTURED AND PRODUCED BEFORE A SPECIAL TRIBUNAL IN BOMBAY IN 1910*.

WE FIND THE ACCUSED GUILTY OF ABETMENT OF WAGING WAR BY INSTIGATION, BY THE CIRCULATION OF PRINTED MATTER INCITING WAR, PROVIDING OF ARMS, AND DISTRIBUTION OF INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE MANUFACTURE OF EXPLOSIVES.

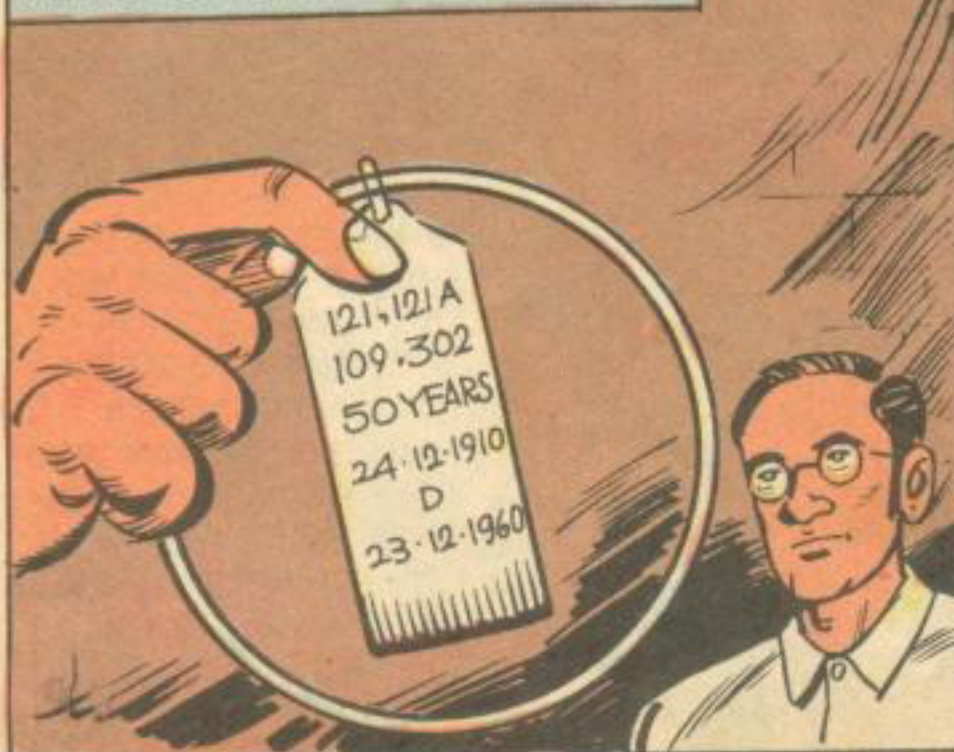


SAVARKAR WAS SENTENCED TO TRANSPORTATION FOR LIFE.

I AM PREPARED TO PAY UNGRUDGINGLY THE EXTREME PENALTY OF YOUR LAWS IN THE BELIEF THAT IT IS THROUGH SUFFERING AND SACRIFICE ALONE THAT OUR BELOVED MOTHERLAND CAN MARCH ON TO AN ASSURED, IF NOT SPEEDY, TRIUMPH.



LATER HE WAS GIVEN AN IRON PLATE TO WEAR.



WILL THE BRITISH RULE LAST FOR ANOTHER FIFTY YEARS?



THESE TURNED OUT TO BE THE MOST PROPHETIC WORDS EVER SPOKEN BY A FREEDOM FIGHTER.

WITH THE DEPARTURE OF SAVARKAR, LONDON CEASED TO BE AN IMPORTANT CENTRE FOR REVOLUTIONARIES ABROAD. IT YIELDED PLACE TO SAN FRANCISCO FROM WHERE LALA HARDAYAL LAUNCHED THE GHADAR* PARTY. IN 1913, HE LAUNCHED ITS PUBLICATION "GHADAR."

WHAT IS OUR NAME? GHADAR.
WHAT IS OUR WORK? GHADAR.
WHERE WILL GHADAR BREAK
OUT? IN INDIA. WHEN? IN
A FEW YEARS.



WHY GHADAR?
BECAUSE THE PEOPLE
CAN NO LONGER BEAR
THE OPPRESSION AND
TYRANNY PRACTISED
UNDER THE ENGLISH
RULE AND ARE READY
TO FIGHT AND DIE
FOR FREEDOM.



LALA HARDAYAL AND HIS FRIENDS CHAMPIONED THE CAUSE OF INDIA'S FREEDOM IN AMERICA. THEY COLLECTED MONEY, BOUGHT AND SENT HOME ARMS AND AMMUNITION. THEY TRAINED BATCHES OF SIKHS IN WIELDING FIRE ARMS.



AROUND THIS TIME A GROUP OF OVER 350 SIKHS CHARTERED THE SHIP KOMAGATAMARU TO SAIL FOR CANADA AND SETTLE IN THAT COUNTRY.



THE CANADIAN AUTHORITIES REFUSED SIKH PASSENGERS ENTRY AND THE SHIP SAILED BACK TO INDIA.



WHEN THE PASSENGERS CAME TO CALCUTTA THEY WERE SUBJECTED TO MUCH HARASSMENT. WITHOUT ANY PROVOCATION THE POLICE OPENED FIRE ON THEM.



THE INDISCRIMINATE KILLING OF THE INNOCENT SIKHS OF KOMAGATAMARU HAD ITS REPERCUSSIONS IN AMERICA.

WE ARE NOW READY TO RETURN TO OUR COUNTRY, TO SHOOT AND KILL OUR OPPRESSORS.



IN INDIA THE STAGE WAS SET FOR AN ARMED RISING UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF RASH BEHARI BOSE IN LAHORE.

THE TIME IS CERTAINLY RIPE FOR AN ARMED UPRISING AS BRITAIN IS BUSY WITH THE WAR IN EUROPE.

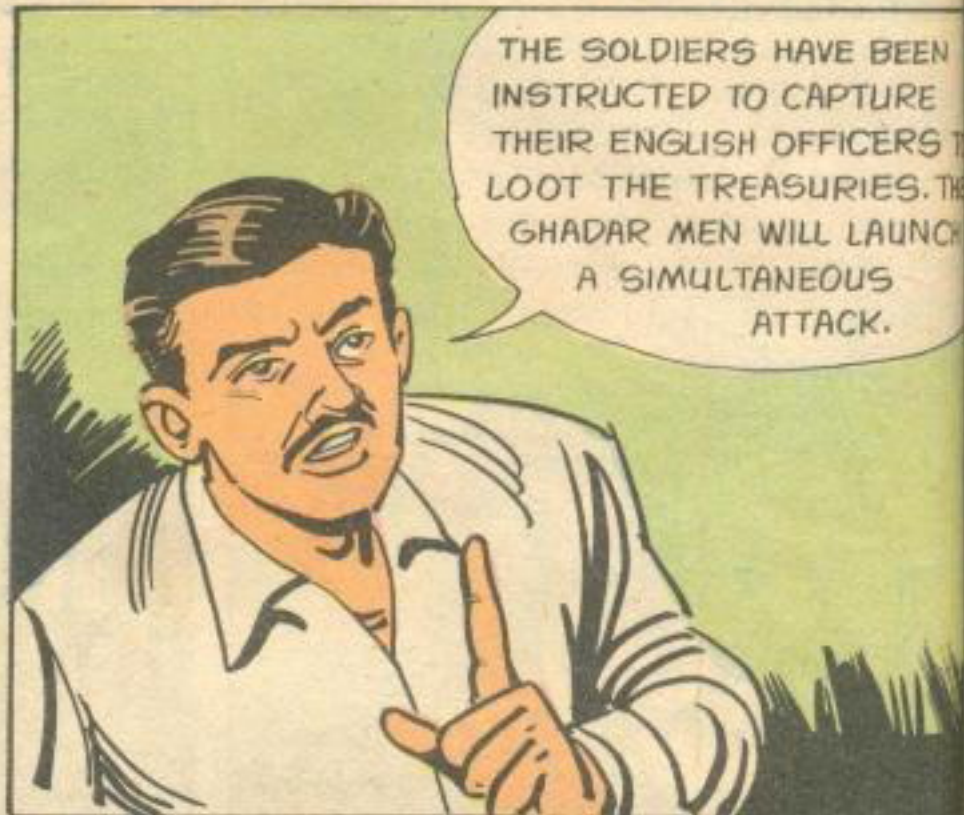


RASH BEHARI AND HIS COMRADES PLANNED A MASS UPRISING IN THE NORTH-EAST ON FEBRUARY 21, 1915.

TWENTY-SIX CANTONMENTS ARE PREPARING TO REVOLT.



THE SOLDIERS HAVE BEEN INSTRUCTED TO CAPTURE THEIR ENGLISH OFFICERS TO LOOT THE TREASURES. THE GHADAR MEN WILL LAUNCH A SIMULTANEOUS ATTACK.



IN CALCUTTA, JATIN MUKHERJI, THE LEADER OF THE REVOLUTIONARIES, HAD SET UP A COMPANY TO CAMOUFLAGE ACTIVITIES.

YOU ARE NO LONGER WORKING FOR THE GOVERNMENT, I HEARD.

I'M NOT. I'M GOING INTO BUSINESS. THAT'S MY FIRM DECISION. BUILDERS AND CONTRACTORS.



HE WAS IN CONTACT WITH RASH BEHARI BOSE, THEN ACTIVE IN PUNJAB.

HOW IS THE BUILDING WORK GOING ON IN THE PUNJAB?

OUR PEOPLE ARE ASKING FOR MORE MATERIAL.



WE ARE DOING OUR BEST. WE ARE IMPORTING MATERIAL FROM RUSSIA, GERMANY AND JAPAN.

RASH BEHARI BOSE FINALISED THE PLAN.

FEBRUARY 21, 1915. THAT'S THE DAY WE STRIKE. THE FIRST SHOT WILL BE FIRED IN THE PUNJAB.

BUT BEFORE THE FIRST SHOT WAS FIRED —

POLICE!

ONE OF THE REVOLUTIONARIES HAD TURNED A TRAITOR.

THE POLICE CAPTURED SEVERAL PROMINENT REVOLUTIONARIES IN THE RAID. BUT RASH BEHARI BOSE GOT AWAY.

LATER HE SAILED FOR JAPAN AND CONTINUED HIS STRUGGLE FROM THERE.

IN CALCUTTA THE POLICE RAIDED THE OFFICE OF JATIN MUKHERJI.

OUR BIRD HAS FLOWN.

BUT WHERE COULD HE HAVE GONE?

JATIN HAD GONE UNDERGROUND AND WAS DIRECTING REVOLUTIONARY ACTIVITIES FROM HIS HIDEOUT AT KAPTIPADA, 60 KMS. FROM BALASORE IN ORISSA.

THE FIGHT WILL GO ON. I EXPECT ARMS AND AMMUNITION FROM OUR FRIENDS IN GERMANY.

JATIN MADE ELABORATE PLANS FOR THE RISING IN BENGAL AND ORISSA.

JATIN'S ASSOCIATES HAD OPENED A COMPANY IN CALCUTTA TO SMUGGLE ARMS INTO THE COUNTRY.



HOWEVER, PLANS TO BRING ARMS BY THE SHIP MAVERICK FAILED TO MATERIALISE. THE POLICE WHO RAIDED HARRY & CO. FOUND A CLUE WHICH PUT THEM ON JATIN'S TRAIL.



WE WILL SOON HAVE COMPANY

JATIN AND HIS MEN TOOK POSITIONS ON A HILLOCK IN BALASORE.

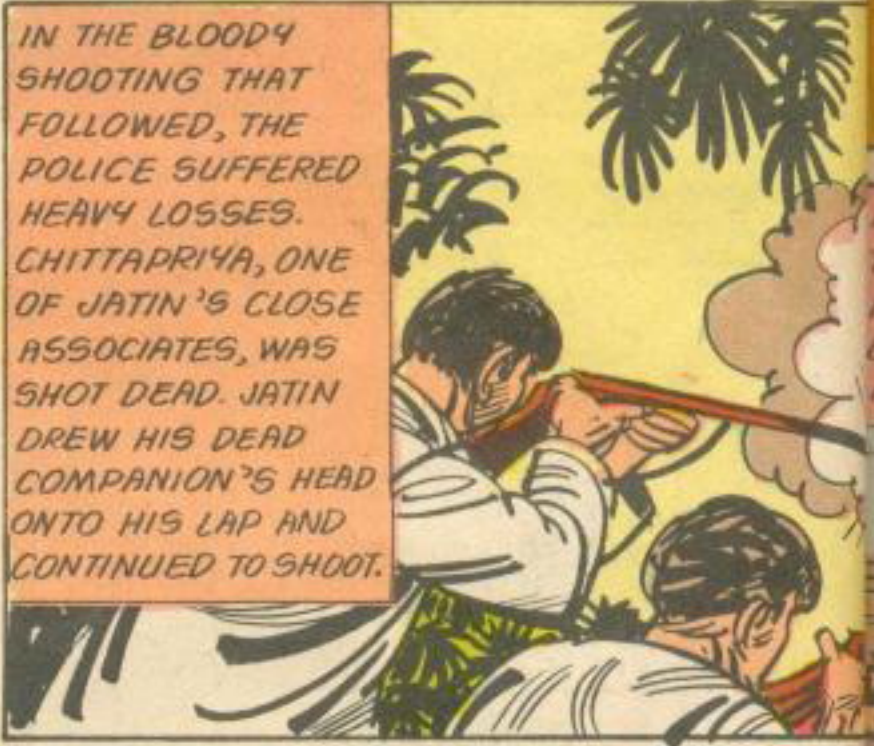
DADA, EVEN NOW IT IS NOT LATE. YOU MUST ESCAPE.

DADA, FOR THE SAKE OF THE COUNTRY YOU MUST SAVE YOUR LIFE.

DON'T WORRY, IF ONE JATIN FALLS, A THOUSAND MORE WILL RISE.



IN THE BLOODY SHOOTING THAT FOLLOWED, THE POLICE SUFFERED HEAVY LOSSES. CHITTAPRIYA, ONE OF JATIN'S CLOSE ASSOCIATES, WAS SHOT DEAD. JATIN DREW HIS DEAD COMPANION'S HEAD ONTO HIS LAP AND CONTINUED TO SHOOT.



SUDDENLY ALL WAS QUIET.

I THINK THEY HAVE EXHAUSTED THEIR BULLETS.



OH GOD, WHAT A GHASTLY SIGHT.



JATIN WAS TAKEN TO HOSPITAL WHERE HE DIED ON SEPTEMBER 1915. TEGART, THE POLICE COMMISSIONER, WHOSE MISSION TO CAPTURE JATIN, WAS AT THE BEDSIDE WHEN THE END CAME.

I HAVE MET THE BRAVES OF INDIANS IN YOU, MR. MUKHERJI. BUT... I HAD TO DO... MY DUTY.



THE GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS WERE ALARMED AT THE INCREASING NUMBER OF REVOLUTIONARY ACTIVITIES.

FOR EVERY ONE SENTENCED, TEN GET AWAY FOR WANT OF EVIDENCE.



WE NEED STRINGENT LAWS TO PUT THESE TERRORISTS BEHIND BARS.



THE GOVERNMENT APPOINTED A COMMISSION UNDER MR. ROWLATT TO STUDY REVOLUTIONARY ACTIVITIES AND TO SUGGEST WAYS AND MEANS TO DEAL WITH THEM.

THE GOVERNMENT ACCEPTED THE RECOMMENDATION OF ROWLATT COMMISSION AND IN 1919 CAME OUT WITH THE INFAMOUS ROWLATT ACTS.

GOOD! NOW WE HAVE AUTHORITY TO ARREST ANY-ONE ON MERE SUSPICION.

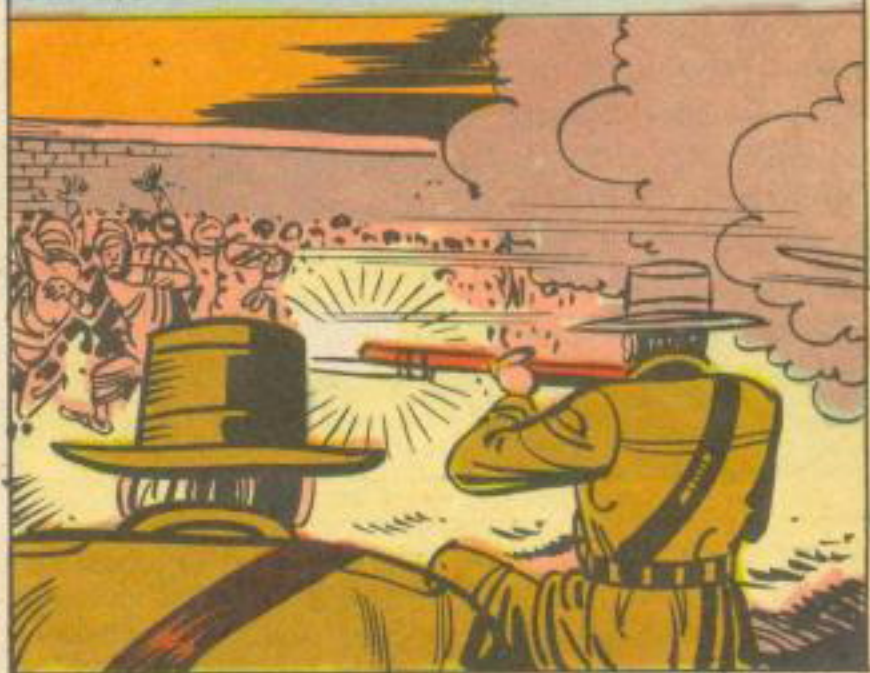
NO NEED TO TRY HIM IN COURT. NO ONE TO QUESTION US. JUST DUMP HIM IN THE CELLAR — GOOD.



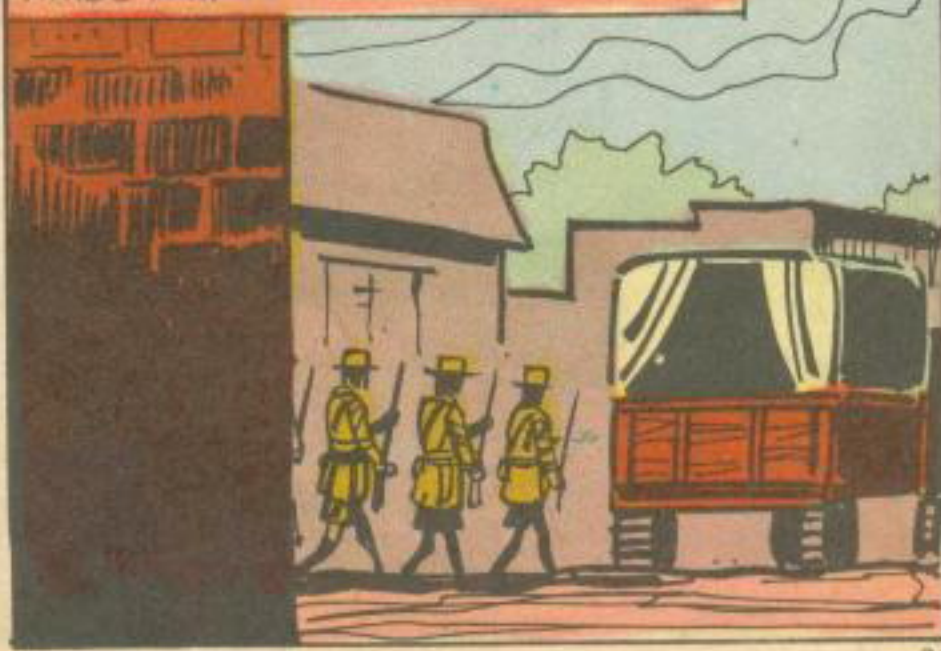
HOWEVER, OUR COUNTRYMEN UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF GANDHIJI PROTESTED AGAINST THE BLACK LAWS AND HELD PROTEST MEETINGS.



IT WAS AT ONE SUCH PEACEFUL MEETINGS AT JALLIANWALLA BAGH IN AMRITSAR THAT GENERAL DYER OPENED FIRE.



DYER'S MEN CEASED FIRING ONLY WHEN THEY RAN OUT OF AMMUNITION. THEY WITHDREW LEAVING BEHIND A THOUSAND MEN DEAD AND THREE TIMES THAT NUMBER WOUNDED.



A TWELVE-YEAR-OLD BOY VISITED JALLIANWALLA BAGH AND COLLECTED SAMPLES OF THE BLOOD-SOAKED EARTH

THIS EARTH IS SACRED. THIS IS SOAKED WITH THE BLOOD OF MARTYRS.



THE BOY WAS BHAGAT SINGH.

AROUND THE SAME TIME IN DISTANT VARANASI, A YOUNG LAD WAS PRODUCED BEFORE A MAGISTRATE FOR SHOUTING SLOGANS. WHEN QUESTIONED —

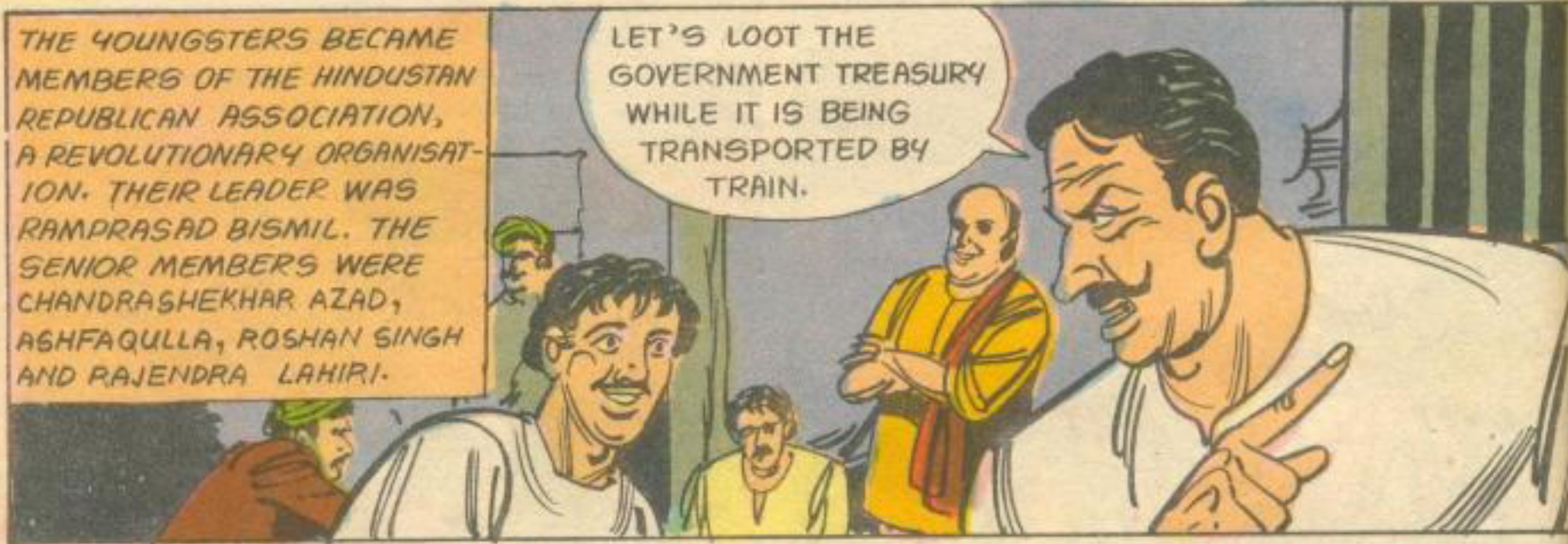
MY NAME IS AZAD. FREEDOM IS MY FATHER'S NAME AND JAIL IS MY HOME.



THE YOUNG LAD WAS CHANDRASHEKHAR AZAD.

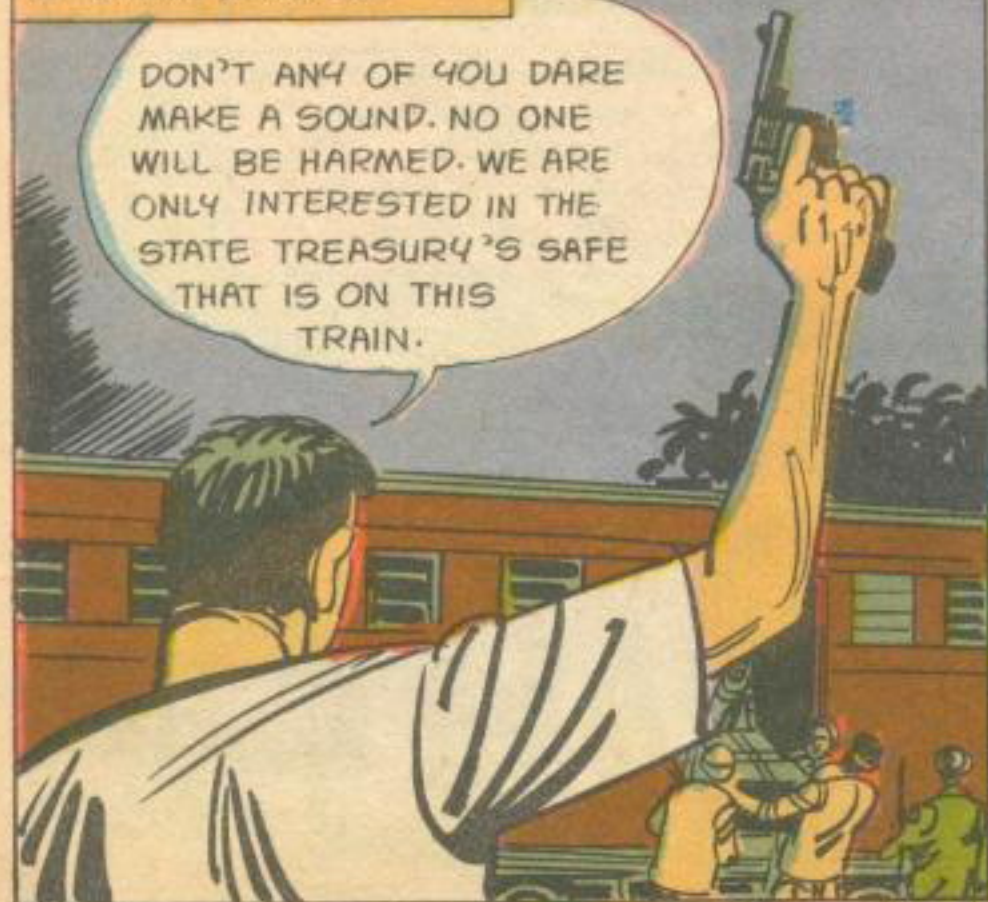
THE YOUNGSTERS BECAME MEMBERS OF THE HINDUSTAN REPUBLICAN ASSOCIATION, A REVOLUTIONARY ORGANISATION. THEIR LEADER WAS RAMPRASAD BISMIL. THE SENIOR MEMBERS WERE CHANDRASHEKHAR AZAD, ASHFAQULLA, ROSHAN SINGH AND RAJENDRA LAHIRI.

LET'S LOOT THE GOVERNMENT TREASURY WHILE IT IS BEING TRANSPORTED BY TRAIN.



IT WAS THE EVENING OF THE 9TH OF AUGUST, 1925. AT KAKORI, A FEW MILES FROM LUCKNOW IN UTTAR PRADESH —

DON'T ANY OF YOU DARE MAKE A SOUND. NO ONE WILL BE HARMED. WE ARE ONLY INTERESTED IN THE STATE TREASURY'S SAFE THAT IS ON THIS TRAIN.



THE NEXT DAY —

KAKORI CONSPIRACY! KAKORI CONSPIRACY!



HOWEVER, THE POLICE ROUNDED UP ALL THE REVOLUTIONARIES WHO HAD TAKEN PART IN THE TRAIN ROBBERY EXCEPT AZAD.

EVEN IF I HAVE TO FACE DEATH A THOUSAND TIMES FOR THE SAKE OF MY MOTHERLAND, I SHALL NOT BE SORRY. OH LORD! GRANT ME A HUNDRED BIRTHS IN BHARAT. BUT GRANT ME THIS, TOO, THAT EACH TIME I MAY GIVE UP MY LIFE IN THE SERVICE OF THE MOTHERLAND.

SUCH WAS THE FERVOUR OF RAMPRASAD BISMIL.

TASADRUK KHAN, THE POLICE SUPERINTENDENT TRIED TO WIN OVER ASHFAQULLA.

THE HINDUS ARE FIGHTING TO WIN BACK THEIR KINGDOM. WHY SHOULD MUSLIMS FIGHT FOR HINDU INDIA?

KHAN SAHEB, I AM QUITE SURE HINDU INDIA WILL BE MUCH BETTER THAN BRITISH INDIA.

OF COURSE ASHFAQULLA, BISMIL AND OTHERS WERE FIGHTING FOR ALL OUR COUNTRYMEN. ASHFAQULLA WROTE —

A MAN IS BOUND TO DIE; SO WHY SHOULD ANYONE BE AFRAID OF DEATH? LET OUR MOTHERLAND BECOME FREE... WHAT MATTERS WHETHER WE BE ALIVE OR DEAD?

DEC. 18, 1927: RAJENDRA LAHIRI WAS HANGED.
DEC. 19, 1927: RAMPRASAD BISMIL AND ASHFAQULLA WERE HANGED.
DEC. 20, 1927: ROSHAN SINGH WAS HANGED.

THE HANGINGS STRENGTHENED THE WILL OF AZAD, BHAGAT AND OTHER REVOLUTIONARIES. THEY CONTINUED THE FIGHT FOR FREEDOM. ON BHAGAT SINGH'S SUGGESTION, THEY CALLED THEIR ORGANISATION THE HINDUSTAN SOCIALIST REPUBLICAN ASSOCIATION.

WE WILL ESTABLISH A SOCIETY WHICH IS FREE FROM EXPLOITATION.

WE WANT FREEDOM FOR OUR COUNTRY. WE WILL NOT BEG FOR IT BUT WILL OBTAIN IT AS OUR RIGHT.

MEANWHILE THE INDIAN NATIONAL CONGRESS CONTINUED THE NON-VIOLENT STRUGGLE FOR INDEPENDENCE UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF GANDHIJI. DURING ONE OF ITS DEMONSTRATIONS AGAINST THE SIMON COMMISSION IN LAHORE...



...LALA LAJPATRAI, THE VETERAN FREEDOM FIGHTER, WAS FATALLY INJURED.

THE REVOLUTIONARIES DECIDED TO AVENGE THE DEATH OF THE LALA. THE MEN CHOSEN FOR THE MISSION WERE BHAGAT SINGH AND RAJ GURU.



BY THE FOLLOWING DAY, THE WHOLE OF INDIA HAD HEARD OF THE INCIDENT. POSTERS APPEARED ALL OVER LAHORE.



SAUNDERS IS DEAD! LALAJI'S MURDER HAS BEEN AVENGED!

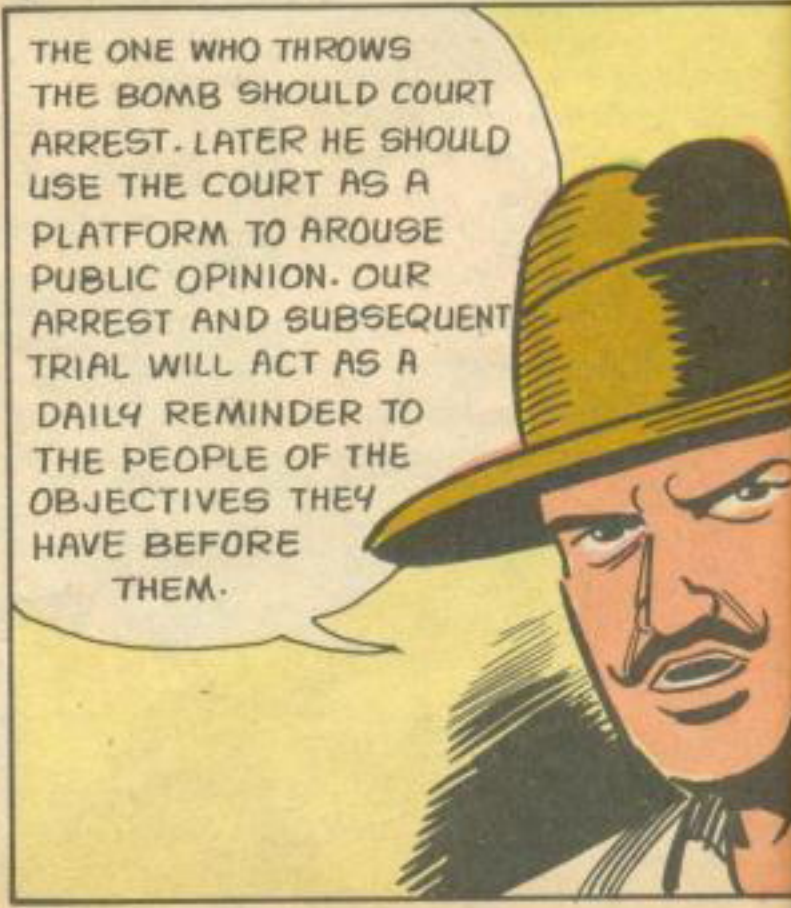
THESE REVOLUTIONARIES WILL NOT TAKE ANYTHING LYING DOWN. NEITHER DO THEY MAKE EMPTY THREATS.

BHAGAT SINGH CAME OUT WITH A PROPOSAL TO AROUSE THE NATION FROM ITS SLUMBER AND COMPEL THE AUTHORITIES TO TAKE NOTICE OF THE DEEP-ROOTED DISCONTENT AMONG THE PEOPLE.



WE HAVE TO DROP A BOMB. NOT TO KILL BUT TO MAKE THE DEAF HEAR.

THE ONE WHO THROWS THE BOMB SHOULD COURT ARREST. LATER HE SHOULD USE THE COURT AS A PLATFORM TO AROUSE PUBLIC OPINION. OUR ARREST AND SUBSEQUENT TRIAL WILL ACT AS A DAILY REMINDER TO THE PEOPLE OF THE OBJECTIVES THEY HAVE BEFORE THEM.

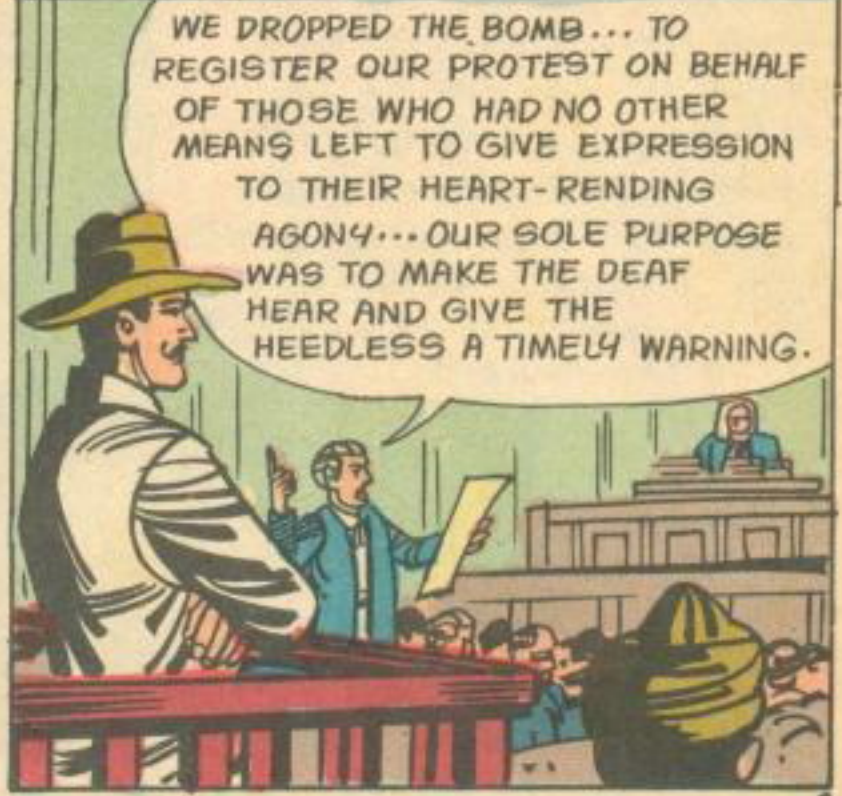


APRIL 8, 1929 WAS THE CHOSEN DATE. THE VENUE: THE CENTRAL ASSEMBLY IN DELHI. FROM THE VISITORS' GALLERY BHAGAT SINGH HURLED A BOMB AND HIS COMPANION BATUKESHWAR DUTTA THREW DOWN LEAFLETS.



THE TWO REVOLUTIONARIES COURTED ARREST ALTHOUGH THEY COULD HAVE EASILY ESCAPED IN THE CONFUSION THAT FOLLOWED.

LATER IN THE MAGISTRATE'S COURT, ASAF ALI, THE LAWYER, READ OUT THE STATEMENT PREPARED BY BHAGAT SINGH.



WE DROPPED THE BOMB... TO REGISTER OUR PROTEST ON BEHALF OF THOSE WHO HAD NO OTHER MEANS LEFT TO GIVE EXPRESSION TO THEIR HEART-RENDING AGONY... OUR SOLE PURPOSE WAS TO MAKE THE DEAF HEAR AND GIVE THE HEEDLESS A TIMELY WARNING.

CHANDRASHEKHAR AZAD MANAGED TO ELUDE THE POLICE. HOWEVER ON FEB. 27, 1931, THE POLICE TOOK HIM BY SURPRISE IN A GARDEN — ALFRED PARK*



AZAD CONTINUED TO FIRE DESPITE INJURIES RECEIVED FROM THE POLICE BULLETS.



FOR THIRTY-TWO MINUTES AZAD HELD THE POLICE AT BAY. WHEN HE WAS LEFT WITH ONLY ONE BULLET HE RAISED HIS MUZZLE TO HIS TEMPLE AND PRESSED THE TRIGGER.



BHAGAT SINGH, RAJ GURU AND SUKHDEV WERE SENTENCED TO DEATH. MARCH 23, 1931. AS BHAGAT SINGH WALKED UP TO THE GALLOWS —

YOU WILL KILL US BUT NOT THE PATRIOTISM IN US. THE FRAGRANCE OF FREEDOM SHALL RISE FROM OUR PYRES.



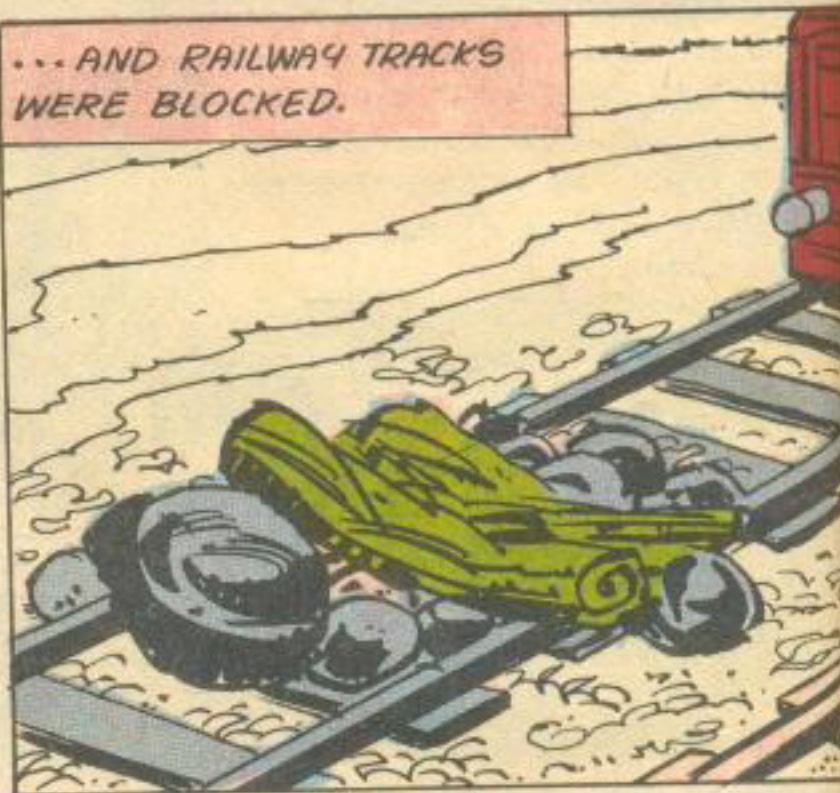
MEANWHILE SURYA SEN AND THE SOLDIERS OF HIS INDIAN SOCIALIST REPUBLICAN ARMY* CONTINUED TO HAUNT THE BRITISH IN BENGAL. SURYA SEN HAD STRUCK THE FIRST BLOW ON APRIL 18, 1930 WHEN HIS BOYS SUCCESSFULLY RAIDED THE CHITTAGONG ARMOURY. THEY COLLECTED ALL THE ARMS AND AMMUNITIONS THEY COULD CARRY AND SET FIRE TO THE REST.



TELEGRAPH AND TELEPHONE WIRES WERE CUT...

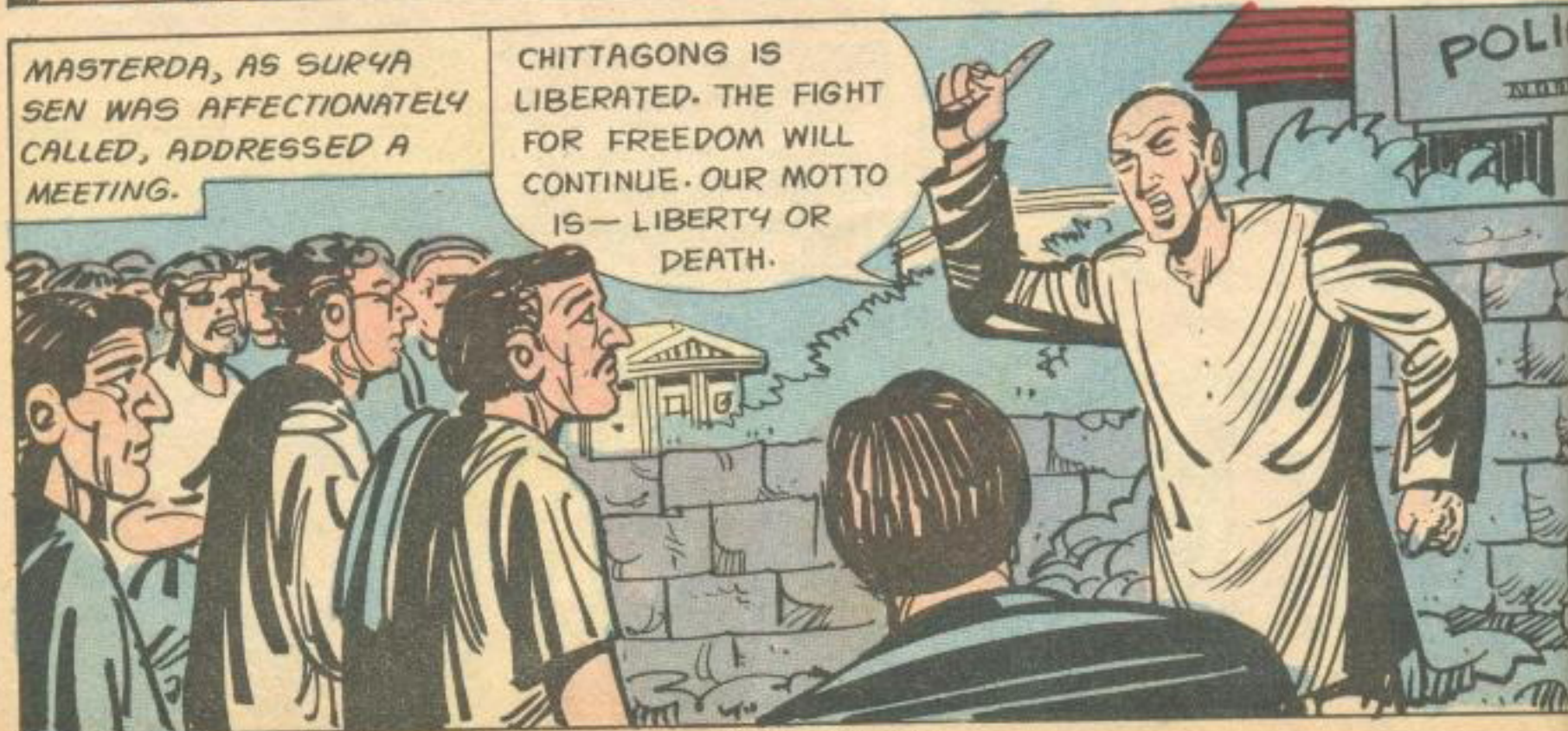


...AND RAILWAY TRACKS WERE BLOCKED.



MASTERDA, AS SURYA SEN WAS AFFECTIONATELY CALLED, ADDRESSED A MEETING.

CHITTAGONG IS LIBERATED. THE FIGHT FOR FREEDOM WILL CONTINUE. OUR MOTTO IS—LIBERTY OR DEATH.



THE BRITISH MUSTERED A STRONG FORCE AND SURROUNDED THE HILLS OF JALALABAD, NEAR CHITTAGONG, WHERE THE FREEDOM-FIGHTERS HAD TAKEN UP POSITIONS. AS THE SOLDIERS CAME WITHIN FIRING RANGE —



HIT BY BULLETS THE BRITISH SOLDIERS TUMBLED DOWN.



THE BRITISH SOLDIERS THEN TOOK POSITIONS ON A NEARBY HILL AND THEIR MACHINE-GUNS BEGAN TO SPILL FIRE.



THEY CEASED FIRE LATE IN THE NIGHT.

THEY CAME EARLY THE NEXT MORNING AND FOUND 12 DEAD BODIES.



MASTERDA AND SEVERAL OTHERS, HAD ESCAPED.

FOR NEARLY THREE YEARS MASTERDA AND HIS GUERRILLA FORCE OF MEN AND WOMEN CONTINUED TO WAGE WARFARE. MASTERDA WAS TAKEN PRISONER ON MAY 19, 1933 AND WAS HANGED ON JANUARY 12, 1934.



SURYA SEN AND HIS COMRADE TARAKESHWAR DASTIDAR WHO WAS HANGED ON THE SAME DAY WERE GIVEN A BURIAL IN THE SEA.

THE HANGINGS DID INFLAME THE YOUTH OF THE COUNTRY. IN FEBRUARY 1932, SIR STANLEY JACKSON, THE GOVERNOR OF BENGAL AND CHANCELLOR OF CALCUTTA UNIVERSITY, CAME TO THE CONVOCATION HALL—



AS HE GOT UP TO DELIVER THE CONVOCATION ADDRESS, A YOUNG GIRL CALLED BINA DAS, WHO WAS IN HER CONVOCATION GOWN, SHOT AT HIM.



THE GOVERNOR DUCKED AND ESCAPED UNHURT. THE MARSHALLS POUNCED ON THE YOUNG BUT DANGEROUS GRADUATE...



...AND PRODUCED HER BEFORE THE COURT.



IS LIFE WORTH LIVING IN AN INDIA SUBJECTED TO THE WRONG AND CONTINUALLY GROANING UNDER THE TYRANNY OF A FOREIGN GOVERNMENT...

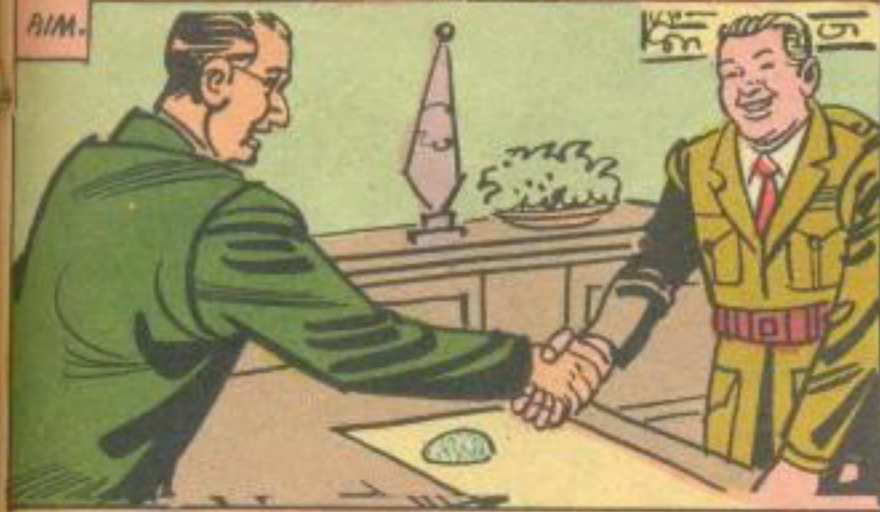
...I BELIEVE THAT A PERSON WHO IS A SLAVE POLITICALLY CANNOT REALIZE GOD WHO IS THE SPIRIT OF FREEDOM... IT WAS FOR THE PURPOSE OF BRINGING THIS FACT HOME TO THE MEMBERS IN INDIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES THAT I SELECTED THE CONVOCATION HALL



OF MY SACRED ALMA MATER AS MY FIELD OF ACTION.

BINA DAS WAS SENTENCED TO NINE YEARS' IMPRISONMENT.

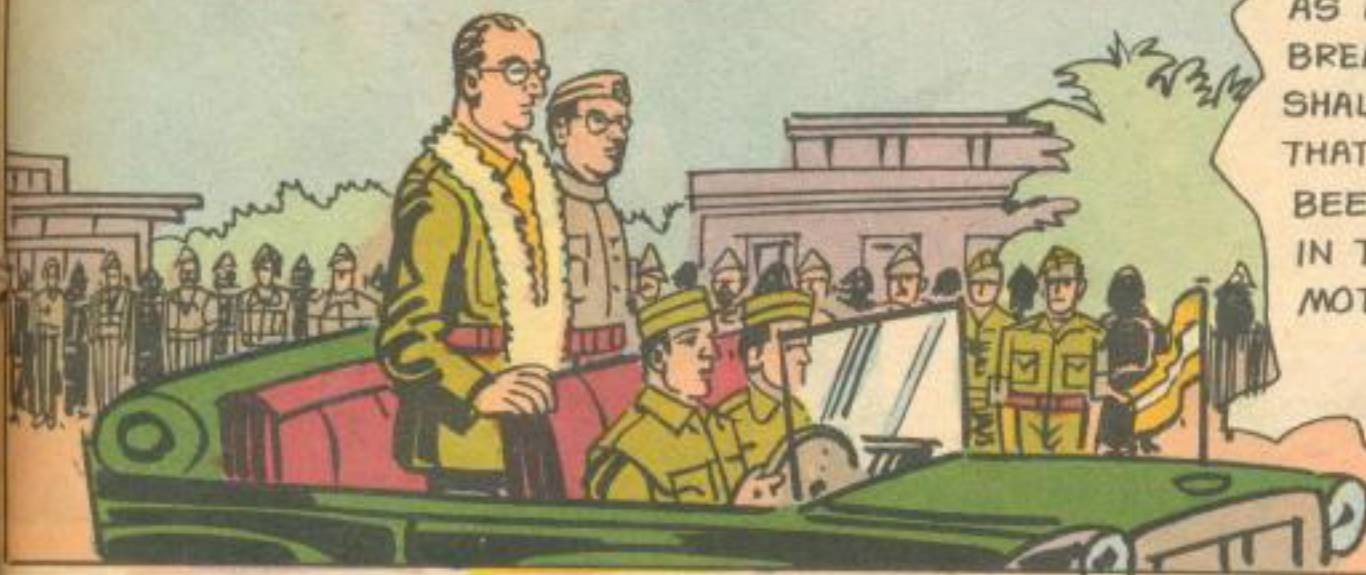
IN 1915 AFTER THE ABORTED UPRISING RASH BEHARI ESCAPED TO JAPAN. WHEN THE SECOND WORLD WAR BROKE OUT, HE TOURED SOUTH-EAST ASIA, BUILDING UP HIS INDIAN NATIONAL ARMY. HE DID NOT HESITATE TO JOIN HANDS WITH THE JAPANESE TO ACHIEVE HIS AIM.



OUR AIM IS TO WIN FREEDOM FOR INDIA. WE WELCOME HELP FROM ALL QUARTERS. WE SHALL FIGHT OUR BATTLES WITH SUCH HELP, IF POSSIBLE, BUT WITHOUT IT IF NECESSARY.



ON JULY 4, 1943 HE HANDED OVER THE COMMAND TO SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE AT A PARADE HELD IN SINGAPORE.



AS LONG AS THERE IS BREATH IN MY BODY I SHALL BE THE SOLDIER THAT I HAVE ALWAYS BEEN — THE SOLDIER IN THE BATTLE FOR MOTHER INDIA'S FREEDOM.

INDIAN SOLDIERS DESERTED THE BRITISH ARMY AND SWELLED THE RANKS OF AZAD HIND FAUJ. NETAJI SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE SET UP A PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT OF FREE INDIA IN SINGAPORE. JAPAN HANDED OVER THE ANDAMANS AND NICOBAR ISLANDS TO AZAD HIND GOVERNMENT.

IT IS ONLY APPROPRIATE THAT THE ISLAND WHERE FREEDOM FIGHTERS WERE HELD PRISONERS IS THE FIRST TO BE LIBERATED.



ON MARCH 18, 1944 THE AZAD HIND FAUJ CROSSED THE BURMA BORDER. ITS MEN KISSED THE SACRED SOIL OF INDIA.



SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE ADDRESSED THE AZAD HIND FAUZ.

HARK, INDIA IS CALLING, INDIA'S METROPOLIS DELHI IS CALLING, THREE HUNDRED AND EIGHTY EIGHT MILLIONS OF OUR COUNTRYMEN ARE CALLING.... THE ROAD TO DELHI IS THE ROAD TO FREEDOM.



HOWEVER, THE ALLIES EMERGED VICTORIOUS IN THE WAR. THE AZAD HIND SOLDIERS COULD NOT EXPECT JAPANESE BACKING ANYMORE. THEY WERE ON THEIR OWN.



THEY FOUGHT VALIANTLY.



NETAJI SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE WAS REPORTEDLY KILLED IN AN AIR CRASH. HUNDREDS OF MEN AND WOMEN DIED FIGHTING. THE SURVIVORS WERE CAPTURED.



THEIR TRIAL WAS HELD AT THE HISTORIC RED FORT. IT AWAKENED NATION-WIDE INTEREST. THE ACCUSED WERE SET FREE.

THE QUIT INDIA MOVEMENT LAUNCHED BY MAHATMA GANDHI CREATED AN UPSURGE. THE SECOND WORLD WAR WHICH HAD JUST ENDED HAD DISASTROUS CONSEQUENCES ON THE BRITISH ECONOMY. THE BRITISH CAME TO THE INEVITABLE CONCLUSION THAT THEY COULD NOT HOLD ON TO INDIA MUCH LONGER. WHEN INDIA BECAME FREE ON AUGUST 15, 1947, PANDIT JAWAHARLAL NEHRU HOISTED THE TRICOLOUR ATOP THE RED FORT—THE VERY PLACE WHERE THE AZAD HIND SOLDIERS HAD BEEN PUT ON TRIAL.

