DISHA
INDIAN AIR FORCE

FIND YOUR CALLING

THE BOYRA BOYS





The Legend in Pictures:
Marshal of the Air Force Arjan Singh, DFC



Squadron Leader Arjan Singh with some of his aircrew



Squadron Leader Arjan Singh getting into a Hurricane for an operational mission



Investiture of Distinguished Flying Cross (DFC) to Sqn Ldr Arjan Singh by Lord Mountbatten, Supreme Commander SEAC on the tarmac of besieged Imphal



Arjan Singh receiving the Marshal baton by President K.R. Narayanan at the investiture at Darbar Hall, Rashtrapati Bhavan, 2002

FIND YOUR CALLING

Rahul's father, a respected Indian Air Force officer, was killed in action many years ago in an operation.

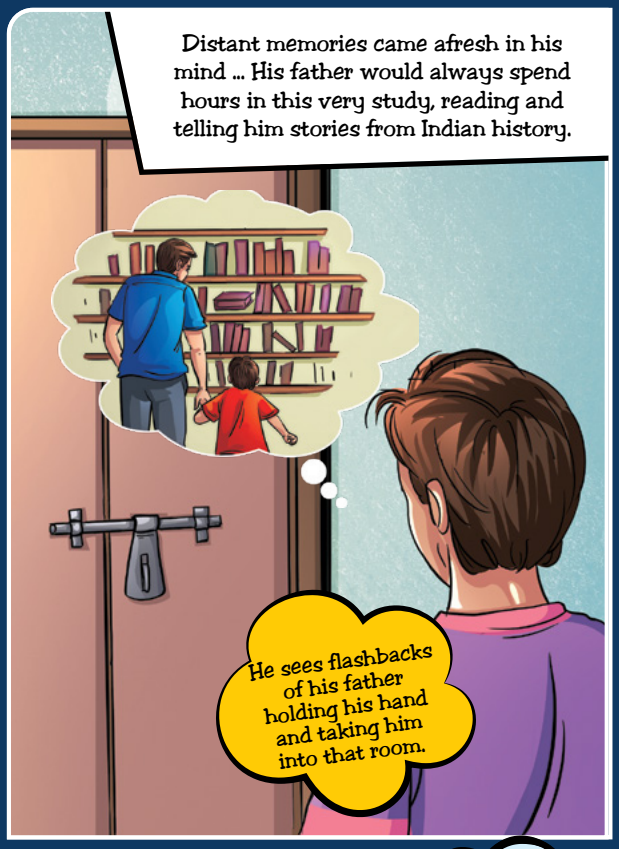


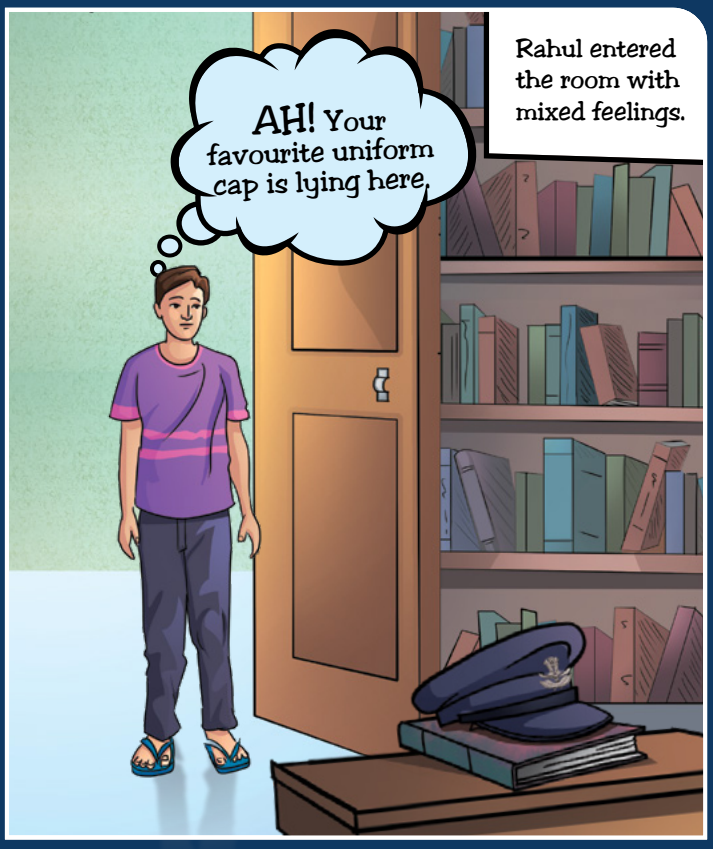
Rahul never understood what cause could be so great that his father willingly sacrificed his life for it. Despite her loss, his mother took immense pride in being associated with the Indian Air Force.



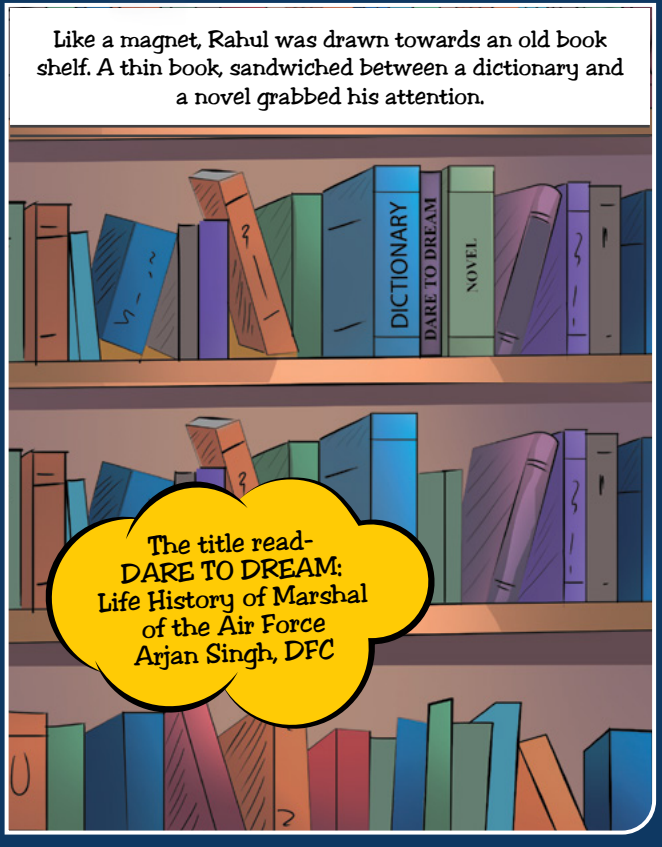
Filled with intrigue and lots of questions on his mind, Rahul went to his father's study ... Maybe he might find some answers there.




Distant memories came afresh in his mind ... His father would always spend hours in this very study, reading and telling him stories from Indian history.
He sees flashbacks of his father holding his hand and taking him into that room.


Rahul entered the room with mixed feelings.
AH! Your favourite uniform cap is lying here.


You looked sooooo handsome in this cap!!


Like a magnet, Rahul was drawn towards an old book shelf. A thin book, sandwiched between a dictionary and a novel grabbed his attention.
DICTIONARY
DARE TO DREAM
NOVEL
The title read- DARE TO DREAM: Life History of Marshal of the Air Force Arjan Singh, DFC


Rahul wiped the book cover with a cloth.

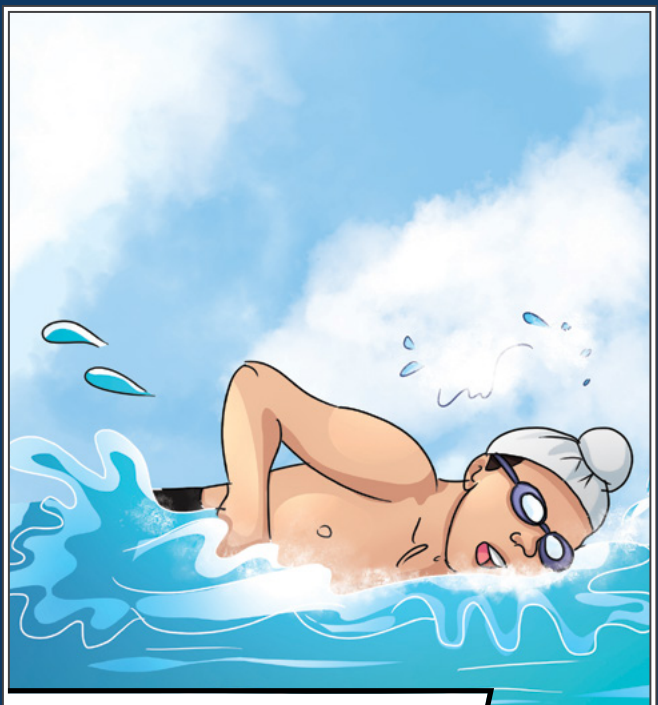

He brought a nearby stool closer and makes himself comfortable.


Rahul opened the book. He felt his father's presence near him. He was once again the child and his father was speaking to him through the book.

CHAPTER 1
A HERO BORN

15th April 1919, Lyallpur, Punjab. (Before Partition) at the home of Lance Daffadar Kishen Singh.

His name will be Arjan, just like our guru Arjan Dev. One day he too will make us proud!



Arjan Singh was a bright student and a very fine athlete. At school and college, he set Punjab and National swimming records.

Arjan Singh was always inspired by his father. He admired his way of life: the uniform, weapons, and the camaraderie he shared with his brothers in arms.

Bauji, I dream of flying and want to join the Air Force. Grant me your blessings.

I am proud of you, puttar. May the blessings of Waheguru be always with you!

CHAPTER 2
THE FIRST STEPS

Victory is ours!! Winning is the only option. YEAHHH!!!!

Arjan Singh was selected for the Empire Pilot Training Course at the Royal Air Force (RAF) College, Cranwell. There he showcased his skills and became vice-captain of the hockey and swimming teams.

This was during the pre-independence time.

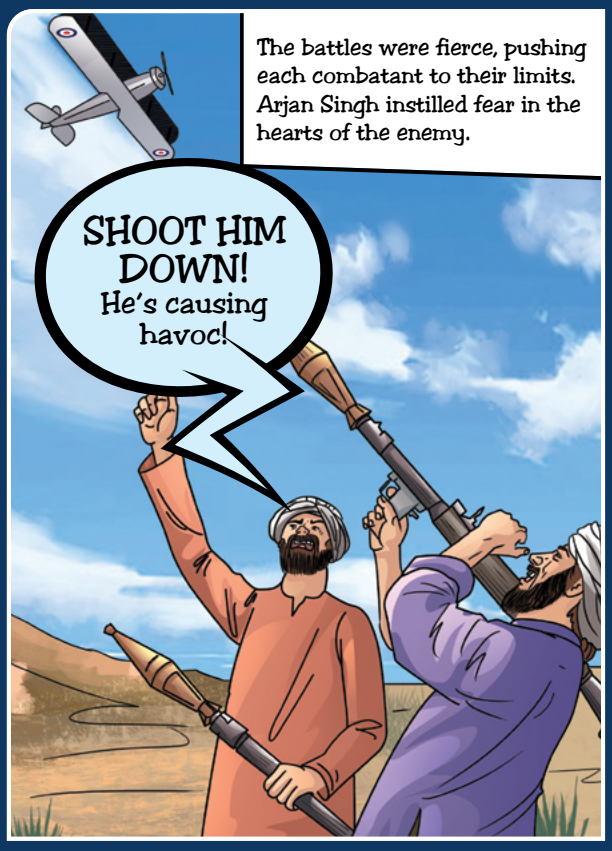
Arjan Singh passed out of RAF College Cranwell in December 1939 as a Pilot Officer. History was in the making...

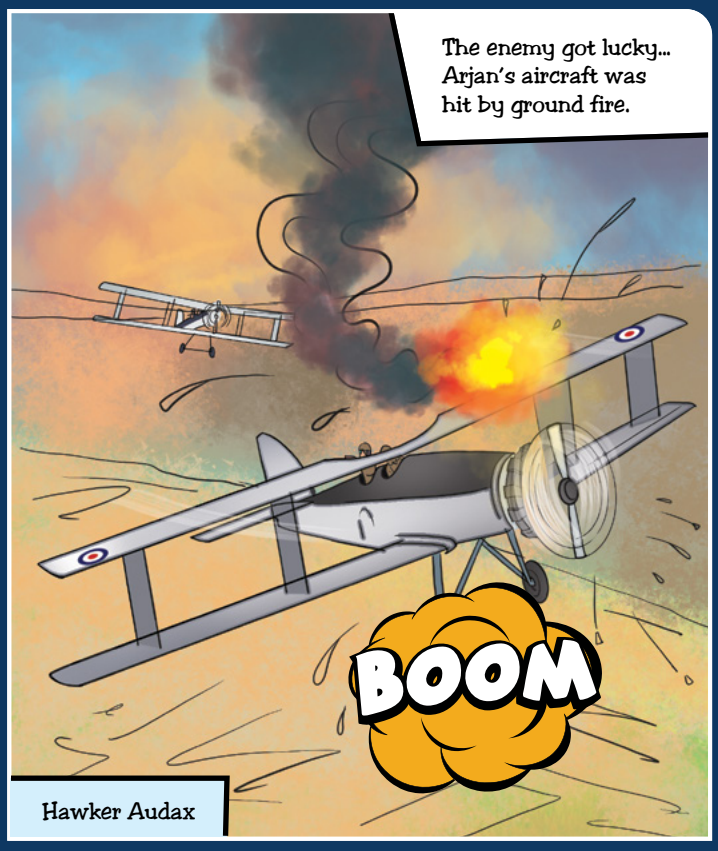
One day, you'll add countless stories of valour to your logbook.

Roger sir. I won't let you down.

Pilot Officer Arjan Singh was immediately posted to the North Western Frontier Province and flew operations against the Pathan tribal forces.

Westland Wapiti bi-plane


The battles were fierce, pushing each combatant to their limits. Arjan Singh instilled fear in the hearts of the enemy.
SHOOT HIM DOWN! He's causing havoc!

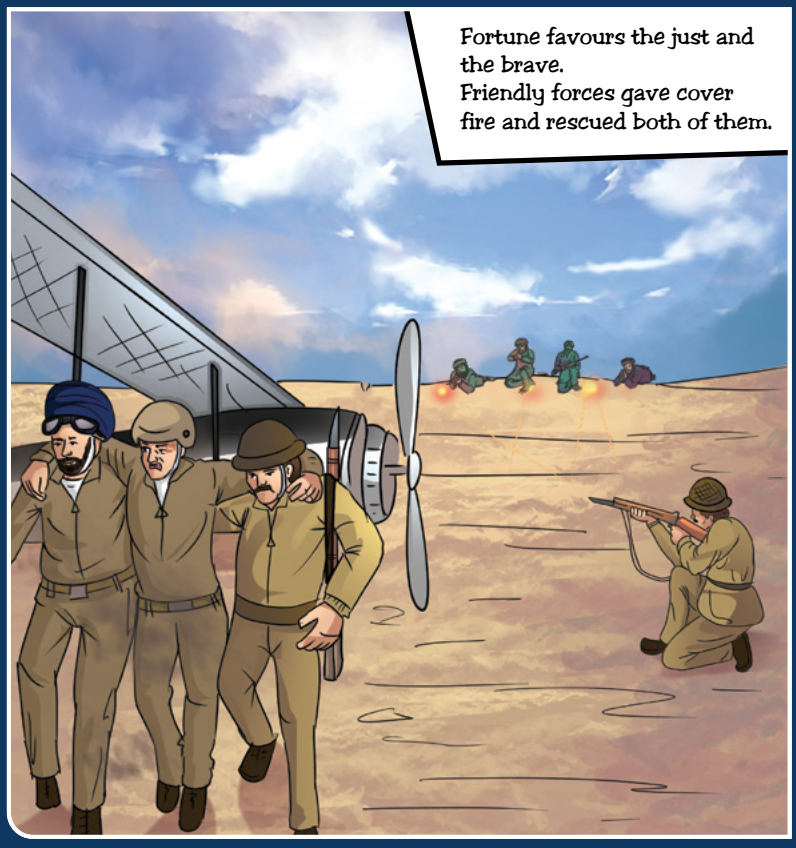

The enemy got lucky... Arjan's aircraft was hit by ground fire.
BOOM
Hawker Audax


I'M HIT! GOING DOWN. There's a dry riverbed; I'll try to land there.


Arjan Singh skilfully landed on a dry riverbed and leapt out of the burning aircraft. Bullets whizzed by as the enemy tried hard to capture him.
CATCH HIM! He shouldn't escape.

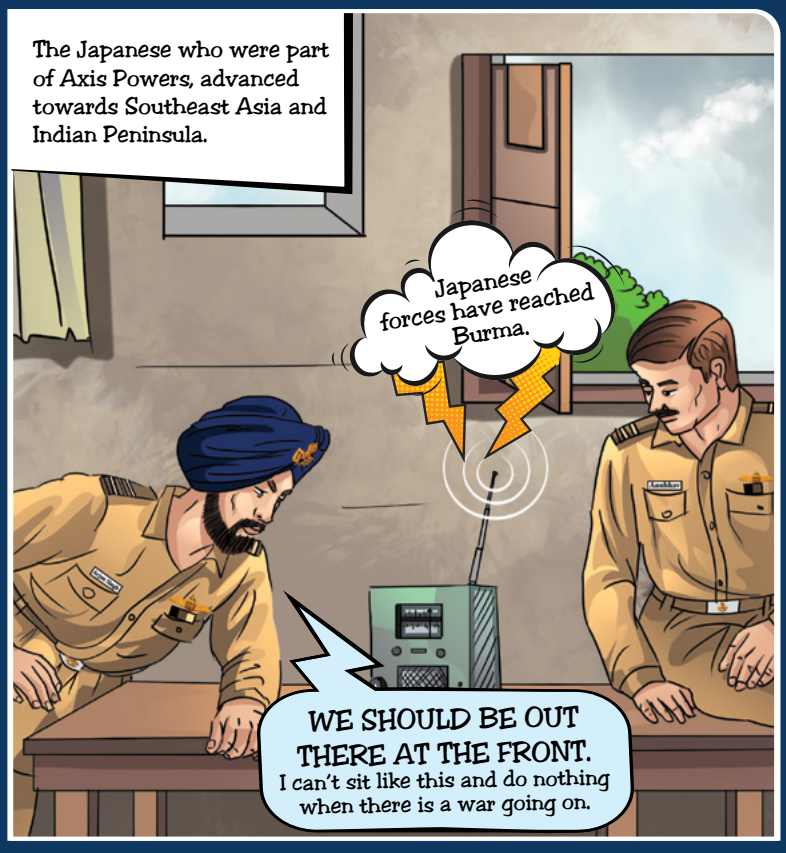

Arjan Singh's gunner was badly injured and trapped in the wreckage.
ALI, WE NEED TO MOVE NOW!!!
Leave me sir. Save yourself. I don't think I can make it.

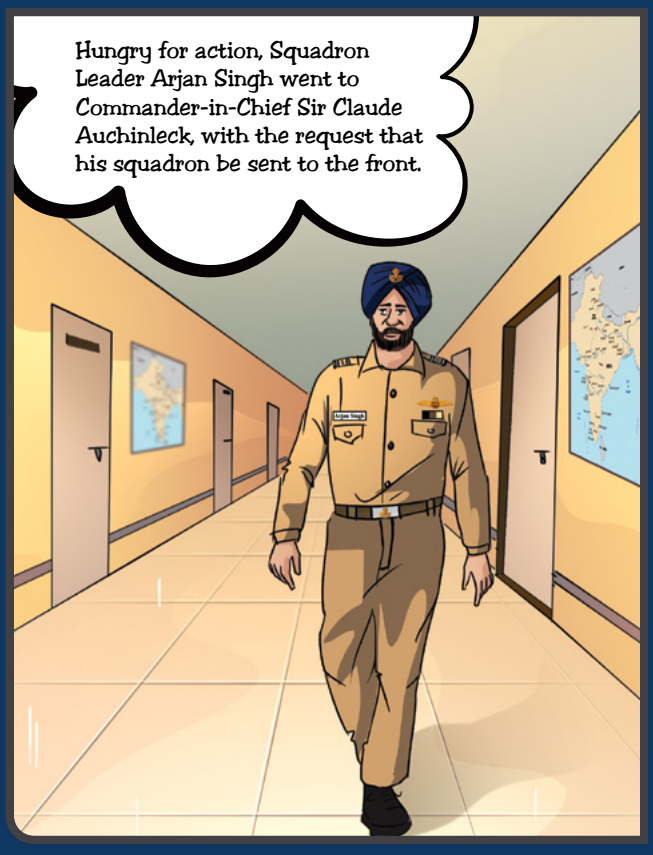

A true leader will never desert his comrades.
No, Ali. I'm not leaving without you. Either we both go or none of us goes.


Fortune favours the just and the brave.
Friendly forces gave cover fire and rescued both of them.


Respect is always earned, never demanded. That day Arjan Singh earned the respect of his comrades.
Sir, you knew you were taking risk of your life for me. Why?
The Air Force is my family, Ali and family always looks out for each other.


CHAPTER 3
FEAR THE FIERCE
On 1st September 1939, Nazi Germany under Adolf Hitler invaded Poland that marked the beginning of the World War II.


The Japanese who were part of Axis Powers, advanced towards Southeast Asia and Indian Peninsula.
Japanese forces have reached Burma.
WE SHOULD BE OUT THERE AT THE FRONT.
I can't sit like this and do nothing when there is a war going on.


Hungry for action, Squadron Leader Arjan Singh went to Commander-in-Chief Sir Claude Auchinleck, with the request that his squadron be sent to the front.


In the office of Commander-in-Chief Sir Claude Auchinleck
Sir, I have a request.
What is it, officer?

My team and I should be at the front, fighting the Japanese. Let us take the lead.

If that's what you want, then go. Prepare your team. You have my clearance.

Thank you, sir.

During the Burma campaign at the Arakan front, Arjan's squadron flew to Imphal, faced the Japanese forces head-on and helped allied forces advance to Rangoon.

Hawker Hurricane

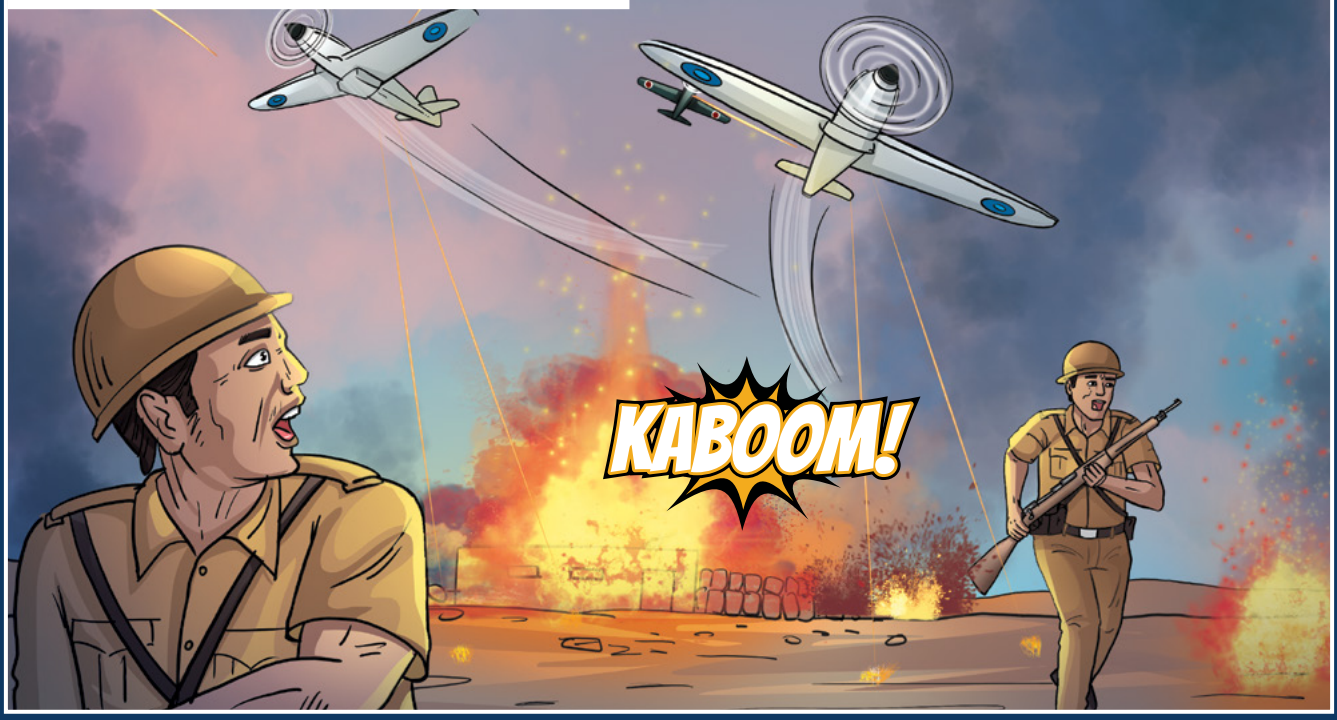
Who is that pilot? He's too quick for the Japanese!

During these operations Arjan and his squadron were always under the threat of Japenese Zeroes.

Contact, Bogey at 9 o'clock, high. I will continue to 12 o'clock, you manoeuvre right.

Roger. Turning right.

Despite heavy opposition from the Japanese fighters, Arjan's squadron carried out numerous attacks on enemy vehicles, gun positions, and troops.

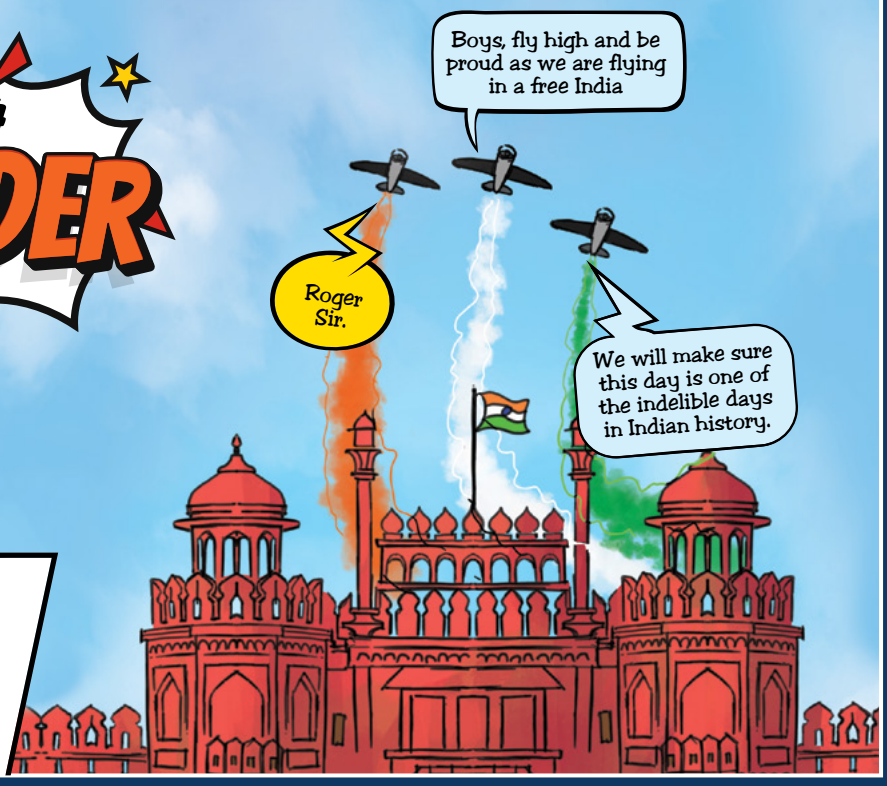


For his heroic actions Squadron Leader Arjan Singh was awarded the most coveted medal special to the Air force - the Distinguished Flying Cross (DFC) by Admiral Lord Mountbatten, Supreme Commander-in-Chief, Southeast Asia.





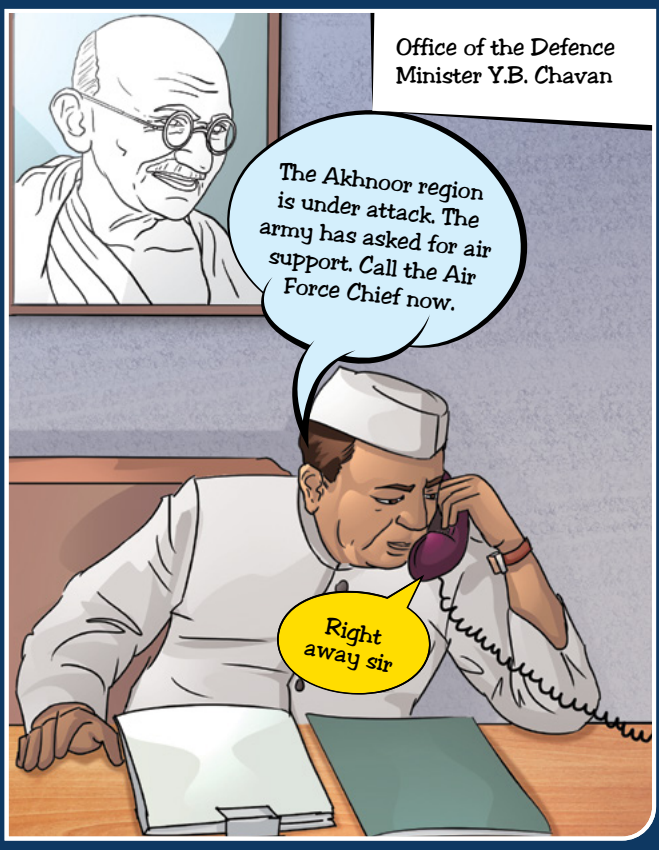
CHAPTER 4
THE LEADER



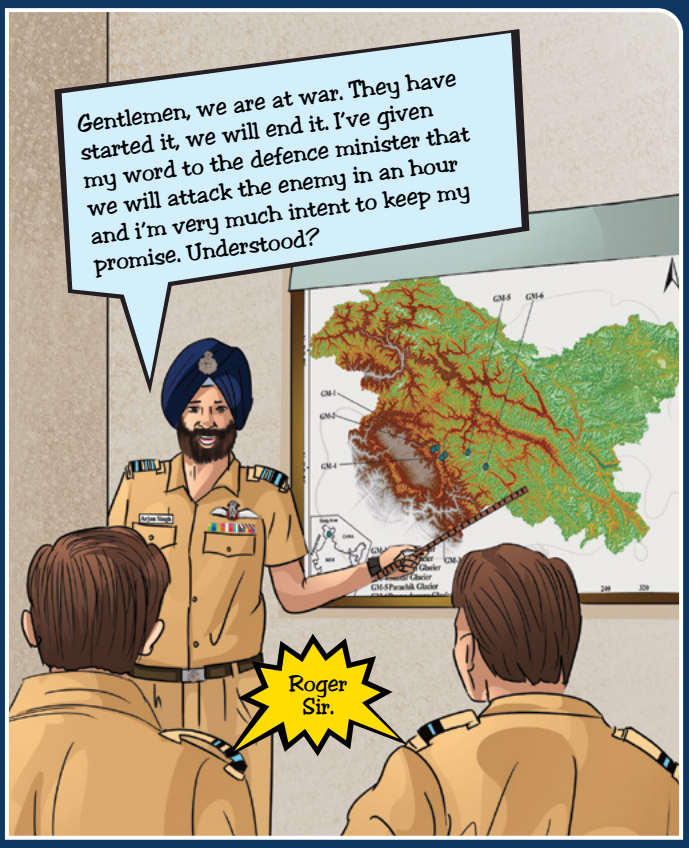
On 15th August 1947, India gained independence. Arjan Singh got the honour to lead the first flypast over the Red Fort.

Pakistan launched Operation Grandslam on 1st September 1965, in the Chamb-Jaurian area of Jammu and Kashmir. Their objective was to attack the Akhnoor Bridge in the sector, which was a vital lifeline for an Indian Infantry Division, and also to threaten Jammu.



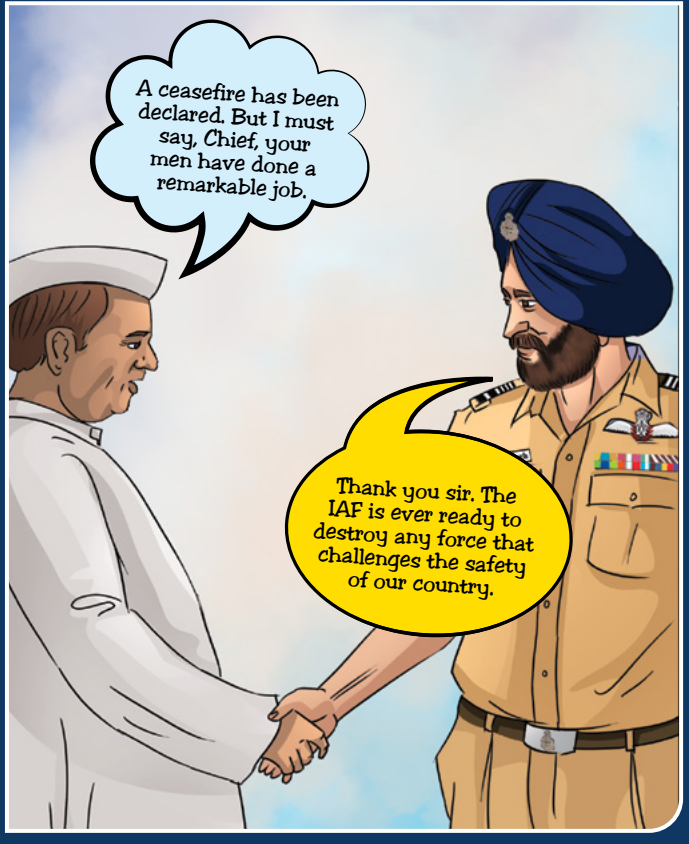






Under his leadership, the IAF wrecked havoc on the enemy and paved the way for a resounding victory.





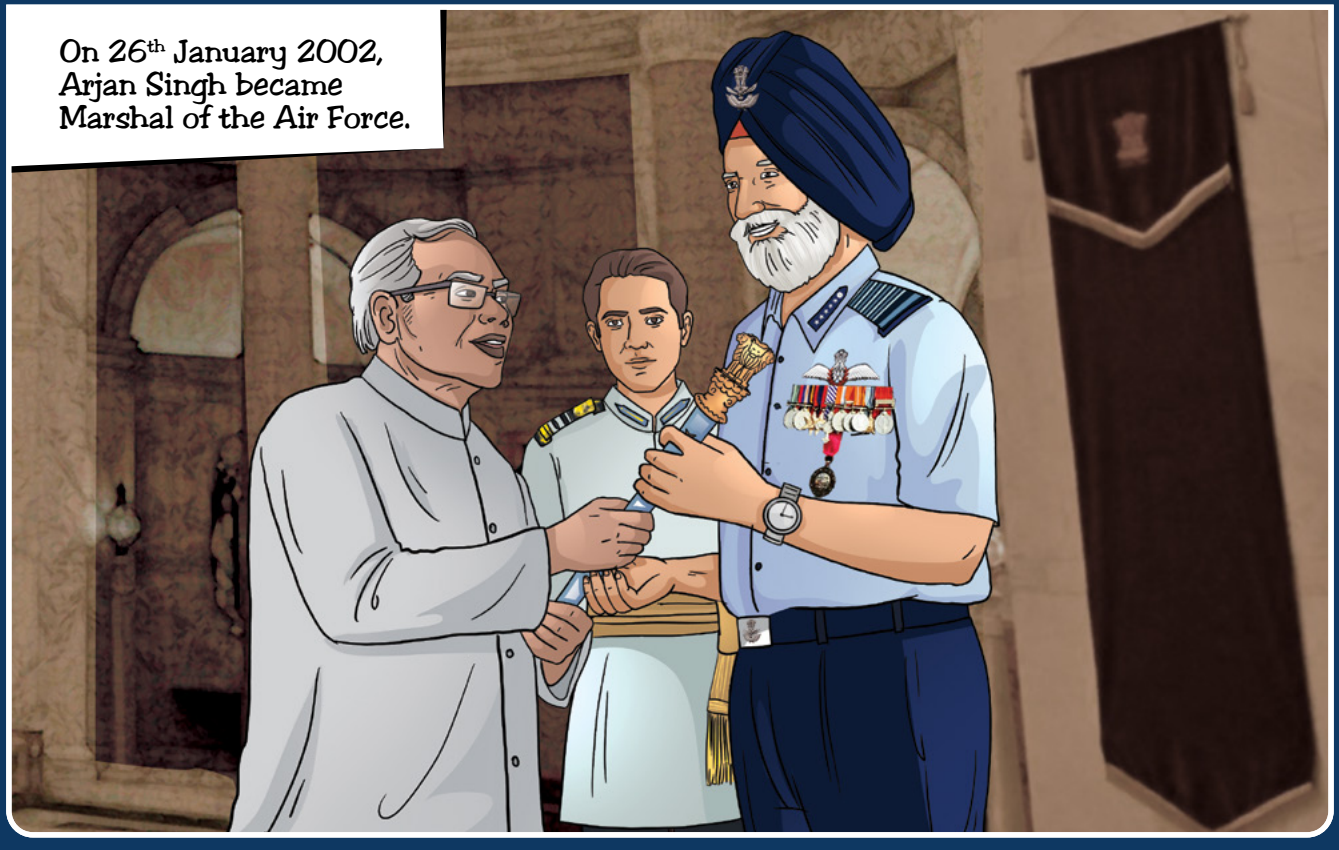
In 1966, Air Marshal Arjan singh was awarded the prestigious Padma Vibhushan by the President of India S. Radhakrishnan.

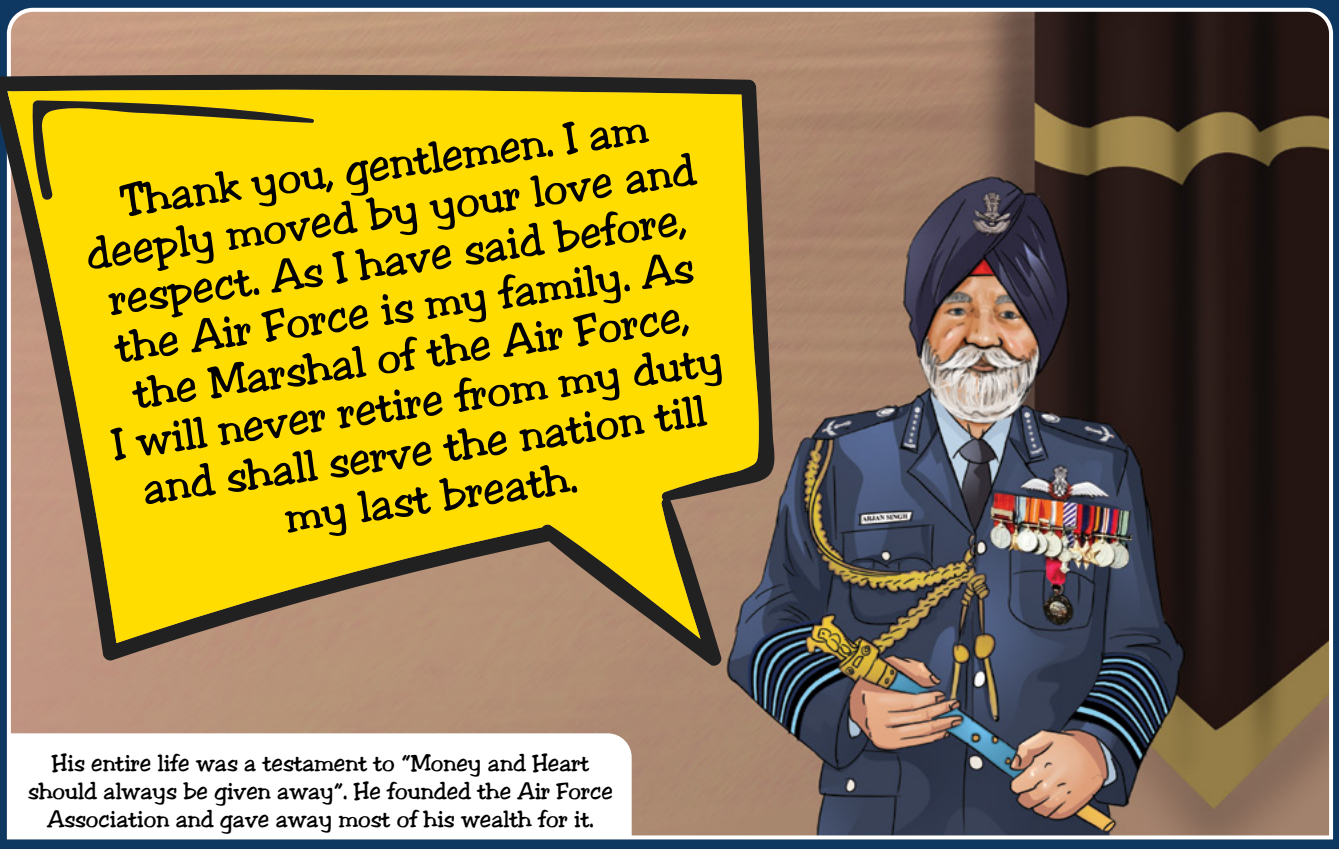
In 1969, Arjan Singh retired from the Indian Air Force with the rank of Air Chief Marshal i.e. Chief of the Indian Air Force.

If I had a chance, I would do this again.

Post retirement, Arjan Singh served as Ambassador to Switzerland and was India's High Commissioner to Kenya and Nairobi. He also held significant posts such as Lt. Governor of Delhi and Chairman of IIT Delhi, among others.


For utmost dedication to the nation, the Government of India decided to confer the rank of Marshal of the Air Force to Air Chief Marshal Arjan Singh, DFC (Retired).
Sir, it is my honour to inform you that the PMO has recommended your name for the rank of Marshal of the Air Force. As per the letter in my hand you will be conferred with this rank on 26th January.
Thank you for this great news officer!


On 26th January 2002, Arjan Singh became Marshal of the Air Force.



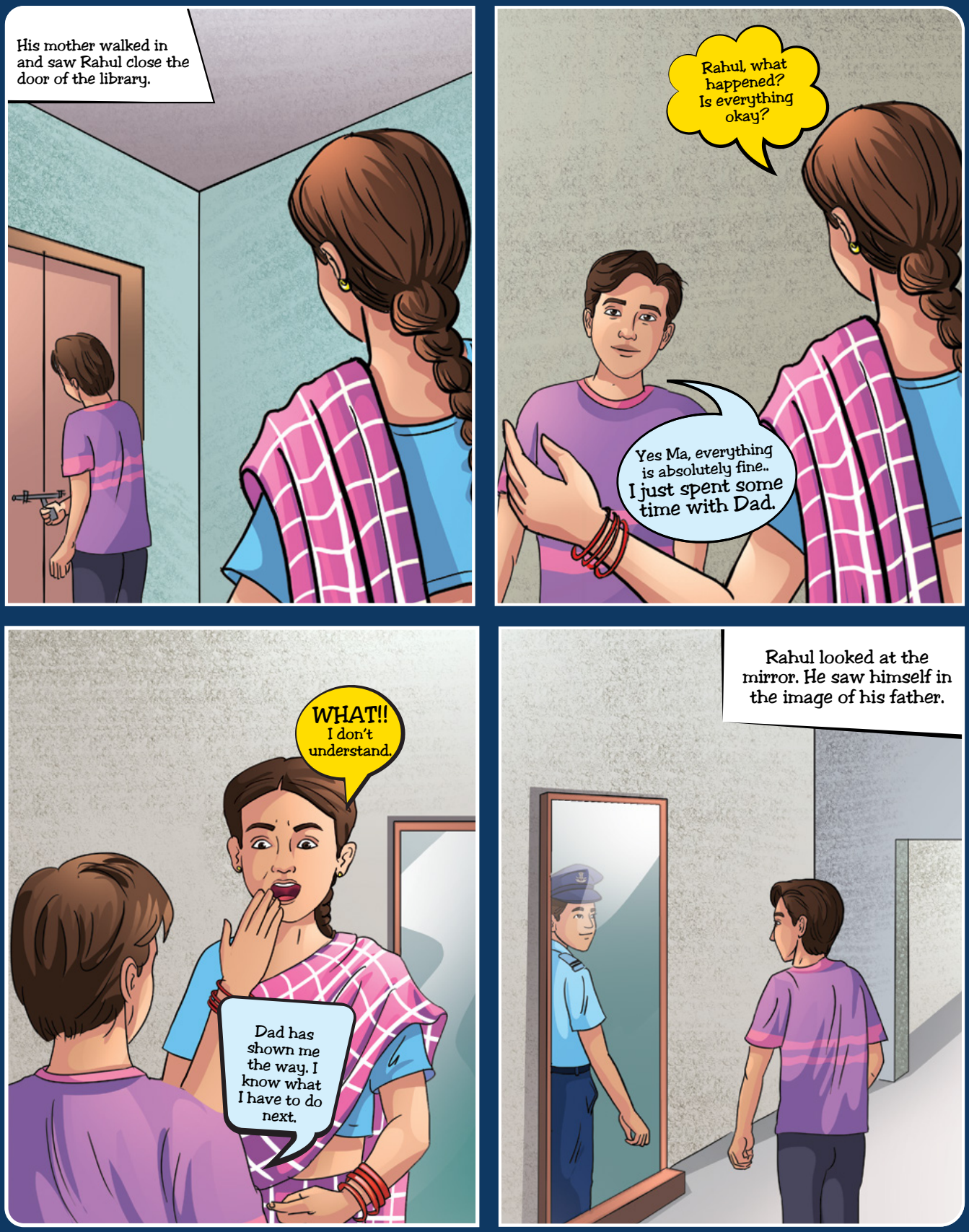
His entire life was a testament to "Money and Heart should always be given away". He founded the Air Force Association and gave away most of his wealth for it.

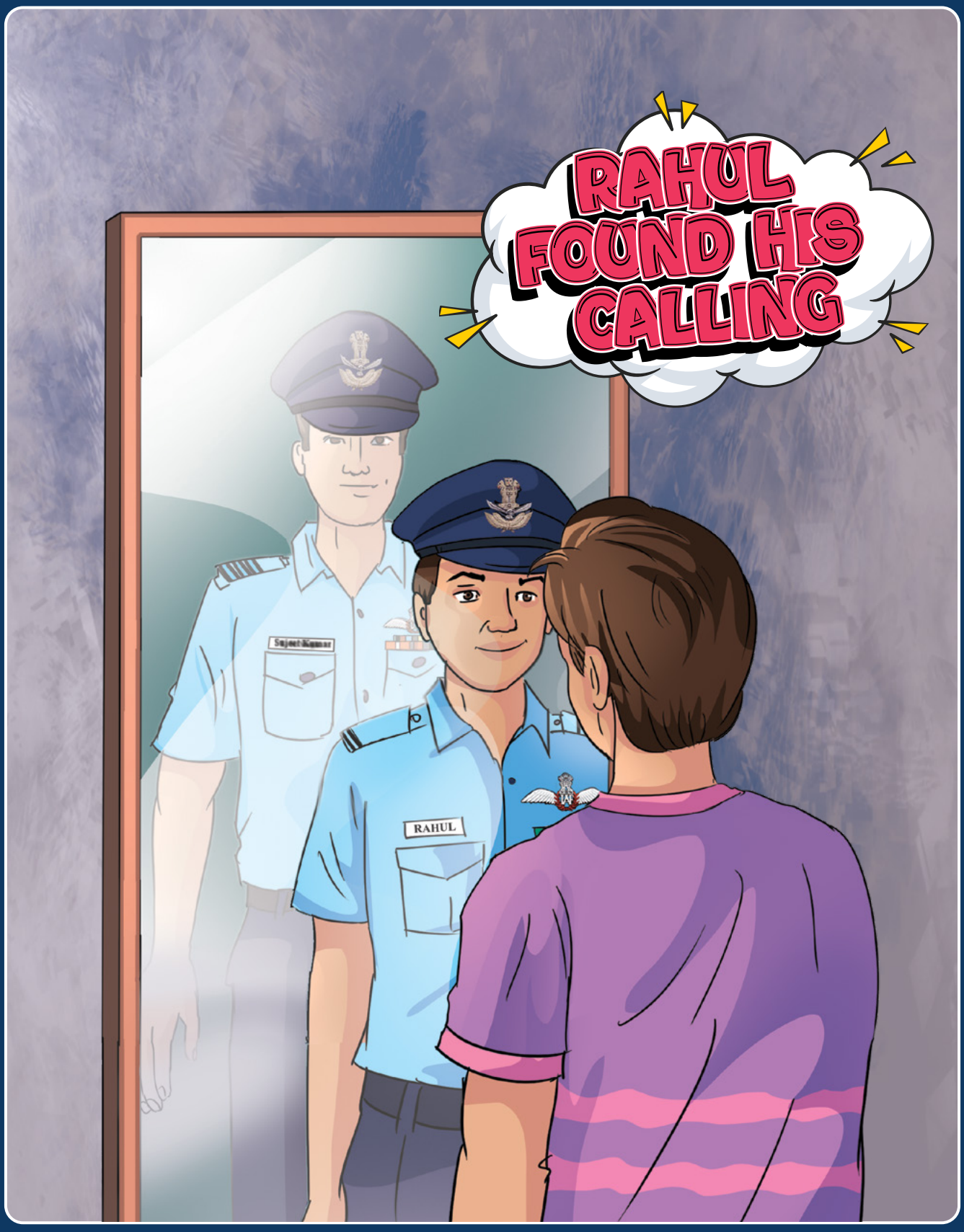


Deeply moved, Rahul kept the book and his father's cap back on the table.



Rahul now understood, why his father was utterly devoted to the Indian Air Force. He felt an enormous sense of clarity and confidence.


His mother walked in and saw Rahul close the door of the library.
Rahul, what happened? Is everything okay?
Yes Ma, everything is absolutely fine.. I just spent some time with Dad.
WHAT!! I don't understand.
Dad has shown me the way. I know what I have to do next.
Rahul looked at the mirror. He saw himself in the image of his father.


RAHUL FOUND HIS CALLING
RAHUL

BECOME A GUARDIAN OF THE SKIES

CHOOSE HOW YOU SERVE AT THE INDIAN AIR FORCE

FLYING BRANCH

An aspirant can join the Flying Branch of the Indian Air Force by clearing one of the following:

National Defence Academy (NDA) Entry

Nationality: Indian **Gender:** Men and Women **Marital Status:** Unmarried **Age Limit:** 16½ to 19½ years as on the date of commencement of training. **Type of Commission:** Permanent Commission (PC). **Educational Qualifications:** 10+2 with Physics, Chemistry and Mathematics (Students appearing in 12th standard can also apply), subject to fulfilment of the qualification as on the date of commencement of training.

Air Force Common Admission Test (AFCAT) Entry

Nationality: Indian **Gender:** Men and Women **Marital Status:** Unmarried **Age Limit:** 20–24 years as on date of commencement of training (Additional 2 years relaxation is available for Commercial Pilot Licence holders). **Type of Commission:** Short Service Commission (SSC) **Educational Qualifications:** Minimum 50% marks each in Mathematics and Physics at 10+2 level AND Graduation with minimum 3 years degree course in any discipline from a recognized University with a minimum of 60% marks or equivalent OR BE/B. Tech. degree (Four years course) from a recognized University with a minimum of 60% marks or equivalent OR Candidates who have cleared Section A & B examination of Associate Membership of Institution of Engineers (India) of Aeronautical Society of India from a recognized University with a minimum of 60% marks or equivalent.

Combined Defence Services Examination (CDSE) Entry

Nationality: Indian **Gender:** Men **Marital Status:** Unmarried **Age Limit:** 20–24 years as on date of commencement of training (Additional 2 years relaxation is available for Commercial Pilot Licence (CPL) holders). **Type of Commission:** Permanent Commission (PC) **Educational Qualifications:** Any Graduate/BE/B. Tech. degree holder having passed Physics and Mathematics at 10+2 level. (Students appearing for final year/semester can also apply provided there are no backlog/arrears in papers of previous semesters).

National Cadet Corps (NCC) Special Entry

NCC Special Entry scheme is a special entry scheme available for those graduates who have a valid NCC Air wing "C" certificate.
Nationality: Indian **Gender:** Men and Women **Marital Status:** Unmarried **Age Limit:** 20–24 years as on date of commencement of training (Additional 2 years relaxation is available for Commercial Pilot Licence (CPL) holders) **Type of Commission:** Permanent Commission (PC) for Men, Short Service Commission (SSC) for Men and Women. **Educational Qualifications:** Candidates should have mandatorily passed 10+2 with a minimum of 50% marks each in Mathematics and Physics AND Graduation with a minimum 3 years degree course in any discipline from a recognized University with a minimum of 60% marks or equivalent OR BE/B. Tech. degree (Four years course) from a recognised University with a minimum of 60% marks or equivalent OR Candidates who have cleared Section A & B examinations of Associate Membership of Institution of Engineers (India) or Aeronautical Society of India from a recognised University with a minimum of 60% marks or equivalent.

GROUND DUTY (TECHNICAL) BRANCH

Aeronautical Engineering (Mechanical) & (Electronics)

An aspirant can join the Aeronautical Engineering branch of the Indian Air Force through any one of the following:

National Defence Academy (NDA) Entry

Nationality: Indian **Gender:** Men and Women **Marital Status:** Unmarried **Age Limit:** 16½ to 19½ years as on date of commencement of training. **Type of Commission:** Permanent Commission (PC) **Educational Qualifications:** 10+2 with Physics, Chemistry and Mathematics (Students appearing in 12th standard can also apply), subject to fulfilment of the qualification as on the date of commencement of the course.

Air Force Common Admission Test (AFCAT) Entry

Nationality: Indian **Gender:** Men and Women **Marital Status:** Unmarried **Age Limit:** 20 to 26 years as on date of commencement of training. **Type of Commission:** Short Service Commission (SSC)
Educational Qualifications:

AERONAUTICAL ENGINEER (ELECTRONICS) (AE(L))

Candidates with a minimum of 50% marks each in Physics and Mathematics at 10+2 level and a minimum of four years Graduation/ integrated Post-Graduation qualification in Engineering/Technology from a recognized University OR cleared Section A and B examination of Associate Membership of Institution of Engineers (India) or Aeronautical Society of India or Graduate Membership Examination of the Institution of Electronics and Telecommunication Engineers by actual studies with a minimum of 60% marks or equivalent in the following disciplines: (i) Communication Engineering (ii) Computer Engineering/Technology (iii) Computer Engineering & Application (iv) Computer Science and Engineering/Technology (v) Electrical and Computer Engineering (vi) Electrical and Electronics Engineering (vii) Electrical Engineering (viii) Electronics Engineering/Technology (ix) Electronics Science and Engineering (x) Electronics (xi) Electronics and Communication Engineering (xii) Electronics and Computer Science (xiii) Electronics and/or Telecommunication Engineering (xiv) Electronics and/or Telecommunication Engineering (Microwave) (xv) Electronics and Computer Engineering (xvi) Electronics Communication and Instrumentation Engineering (xvii) Electronics Instrument & Control (xviii) Electronics Instrument & Control Engineering (xix) Instrumentation & Control Engineering (xx) Instrument & Control Engineering (xxi) Information Technology (xxii) Electric Power and Machinery Engineering (xxiii) Infotech Engineering (xxiv) Cyber Security

AERONAUTICAL ENGINEER (MECHANICAL) (AE(M))

Candidates with a minimum of 50% marks each in Physics and Mathematics at 10+2 level and a minimum of four years degree Graduation/integrated Post-graduation qualification in Engineering/Technology from recognized University or cleared Section A and B examination of Associate Membership of Institution of Engineers (India) or Aeronautical Society of India by actual studies from a recognized University with a minimum of 60% marks or equivalent in the following disciplines: (i) Aerospace Engineering (ii) Aeronautical Engineering (iii) Aircraft Maintenance Engineering (iv) Mechanical Engineering (v) Mechanical Engineering and Automation (vi) Mechanical Engineering (Production) (vii) Mechanical Engineering (Repair and Maintenance) (viii) Mechatronics (ix) Industrial Engineering (x) Manufacturing Engineering (xi) Production and Industrial Engineering

GROUND DUTY (NON-TECHNICAL) BRANCH

Weapon Systems

An aspirant can join the Weapon Systems branch of the Indian Air Force through Air Force Common Admission Test (AFCAT) entry, as per the details shown below:

Nationality: Indian **Gender:** Men and Women **Marital Status:** Unmarried **Age Limit:** 20 to 26 years as on date of commencement of training. **Type of Commission:** Short Service Commission (SSC) Educational **Qualifications:** Candidates should have mandatorily passed with a minimum of 50% marks each in Mathematics and Physics at 10+2 level AND Graduation with minimum three years degree course in any discipline from a recognized University with a minimum of 60% marks or equivalent OR BE/B. Tech. degree (Four years course) from recognized University with a minimum of 60% marks or equivalent.

Administration and Logistics

An aspirant can join the Administration and Logistics Branch of the Indian Air Force through any one of the following:

National Defence Academy (NDA) entry

Nationality: Indian **Gender:** Men and Women **Marital Status:** Unmarried **Age Limit:** 16½ to 19½ years as on date of commencement of training. **Type of Commission:** Permanent Commission (PC) **Educational Qualifications:** 10+2 with Physics, Chemistry and Mathematics (Students appearing in 12th standard can also apply), subject to fulfilment of the qualification as on the date of commencement of the course.

Air Force Common Admission Test (AFCAT) Entry

Nationality: Indian **Gender:** Men and Women **Marital Status:** Unmarried **Age Limit:** 20 to 26 years as on date of commencement of training. **Type of Commission:** Short Service Commission (SSC) **Educational Qualifications:** Passed 10+2 AND Graduate Degree (Min three years degree course) in any discipline from a recognized university with a minimum of 60% marks or equivalent or cleared Section A & B examination of Associate Membership of Institution of Engineers (India) or Aeronautical Society of India from a recognized University with a minimum of 60% marks or equivalent.

Meteorology

An aspirant can join the Meteorology Branch of the Indian Air Force through Air Force Common Admission Test (AFCAT) as per the information mentioned:
Nationality: Indian **Gender:** Men and Women **Marital Status:** Unmarried Age Limit: 20 to 26 years as on date of commencement of training. **Type of Commission:** Short Service Commission (SSC) **Educational Qualifications:** Passed 10+2 AND B.Sc. with Physics and Mathematics with a minimum of 60% marks or equivalent OR Four years Graduation in Engineering/Technology discipline with minimum of 60% marks or equivalent in the following streams: (i) Communication Engineering (ii) Computer Engineering/Technology (iii) Computer Engineering and Application (iv) Computer Science and Engineering/Technology (v) Electrical and Computer Engineering (vi) Electrical and Electronics Engineering (vii) Electronics Engineering/Technology (viii) Electronics Science and Engineering (ix) Electronics (x) Electronics and Communication Engineering (xi) Electronics and Computer Science (xii) Electronics and/or Telecommunication Engineering (xiii) Electronics and/or Telecommunication Engineering (Microwave) (xiv) Electronics Communication and instrumentation Engineering (xv) Information Technology (xvi) Mechanical Engineering.

Accounts

An aspirant can join the Accounts Branch of the Indian Air Force through Air Force Common Admission Test (AFCAT) as per the information mentioned below:
Nationality: Indian **Gender:** Men and Women **Marital Status:** Unmarried **Age Limit:** 20 to 26 years as on date of commencement of training. **Type of Commission:** Short Service Commission (SSC) **Educational Qualifications:** Passed 10+2 AND the candidates should have done Graduation in any of the following streams with 60% marks or equivalent from a recognized University: (i) B.Com Degree (minimum three years course). (ii) Bachelor of Business Administration (with specialisation in Finance)/Bachelor of Management Studies (with specialisation in Finance)/Bachelor of Business Studies (with specialisation in Finance). (iii) Qualified CA/CMA/CS/CFA. (iv) B.Sc. with specialisation in Finance.

Education

An aspirant can join the Education Branch of the Indian Air Force through Air Force Common Admission Test (AFCAT) as per the information mentioned below:
Nationality: Indian **Gender:** Men and Women **Marital Status:** Unmarried **Age Limit:** 20 to 26 years as on date of commencement of training. **Type of Commission:** Short Service Commission (SSC) **Educational Qualifications:** Passed 10+2 AND Post Graduation with 50% marks in any discipline, including integrated courses offering PG (single degree without permission to exit and lateral entry) and with 60% marks in Graduation in any discipline.

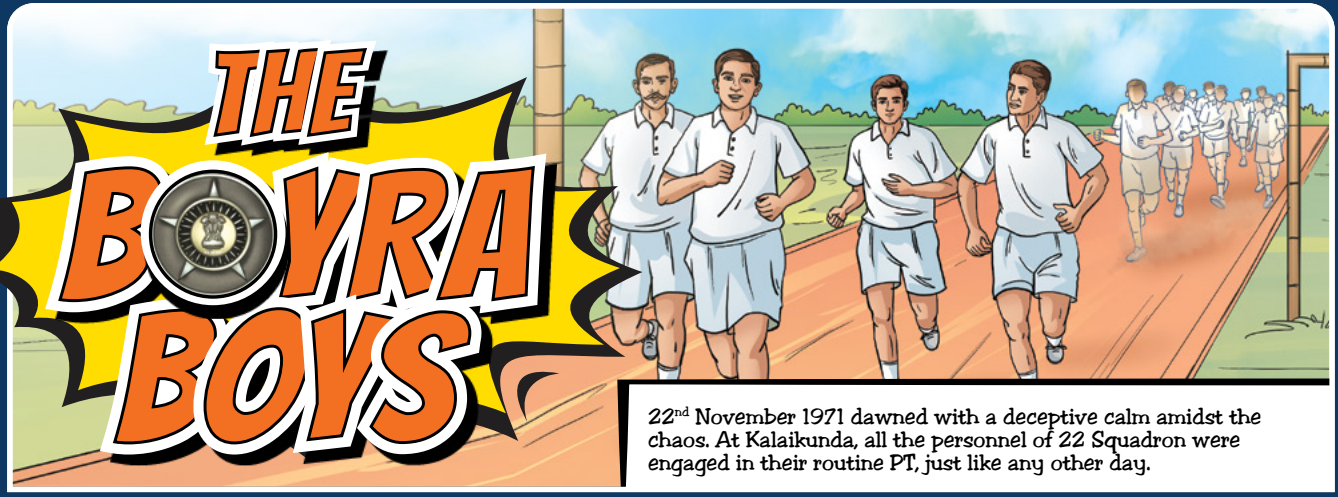
NOTE

(1) The engagement period for Flying Branch (Men and Women) SSC Officers is 14 years from the date of Commissioning. (2) The initial tenure for Ground Duty (Technical & Non-Technical) SSC Officers would be for a period of 10 years. An extension of 4 years may granted subject to service requirements, availability of vacancies, willingness, suitability and merit. (3) Grant of Permanent Commission (PC) (at a later date) would be considered subject to service requirements, availability of vacancies, willingness, suitability, merit and as per prevailing policies on the subject. (4) SSC Officers are not entitled for grant of pension.

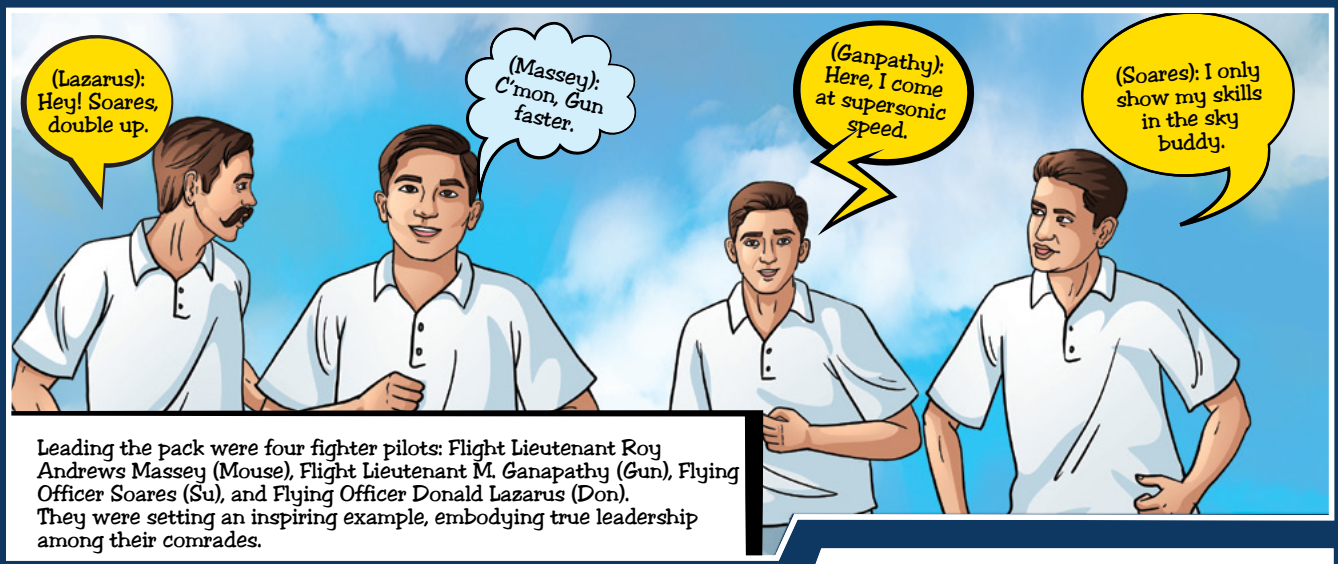
SELECTION PROCESS

(1) The first step is to register online for the written examination. The written examination for NDA and CDSE entry is conducted by UPSC, whereas for AFCAT entry, the examination is conducted by the Indian Air Force. There is no initial written examination for NCC Special entry. (2) All those who appear in the written examination and make it through the stipulated cut-off are called to Air Force Selection Board (AFSB) for testing. (3) Testing at AFSB comprises of: (a) Document Check. (b) Stage-I testing comprising of Officer Intelligence Rating Test (OIR) and Picture Perception and Discussion Test (PPDT). (c) Only Stage-I cleared candidates shall undergo Stage-II, which involves Psychological Test, Group Testing Officer Test and Interview before Board Conference is conducted. (4) After the conference, the result is announced. (5) After the results, selected Flying Branch candidates shall additionally undergo the Computerised Pilot Selection System (CPSS) test. (6) After the AFSB testing, the cleared candidates shall undergo a medical examination at one of the military hospitals/establishments. (7) An All India Merit List is prepared for all AFSB-cleared candidates (declared medically fit) based on vacancies. Candidates making it through the All India Merit List are given joining instructions to undergo training at the designated training establishments. (8) Those who successfully complete training are commissioned as an Officer in the Indian Air Force.

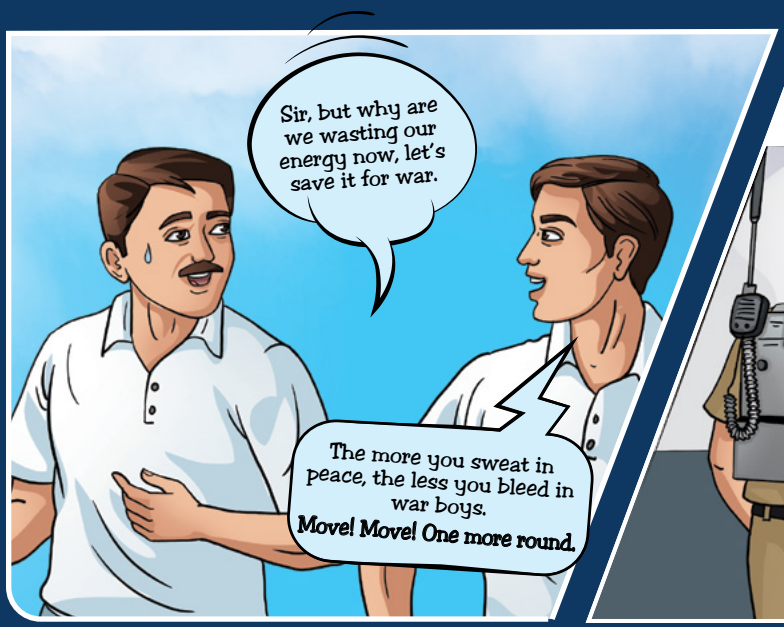
THE BOYRA BOYS



22nd November 1971 dawned with a deceptive calm amidst the chaos. At Kalaikunda, all the personnel of 22 Squadron were engaged in their routine PT, just like any other day.

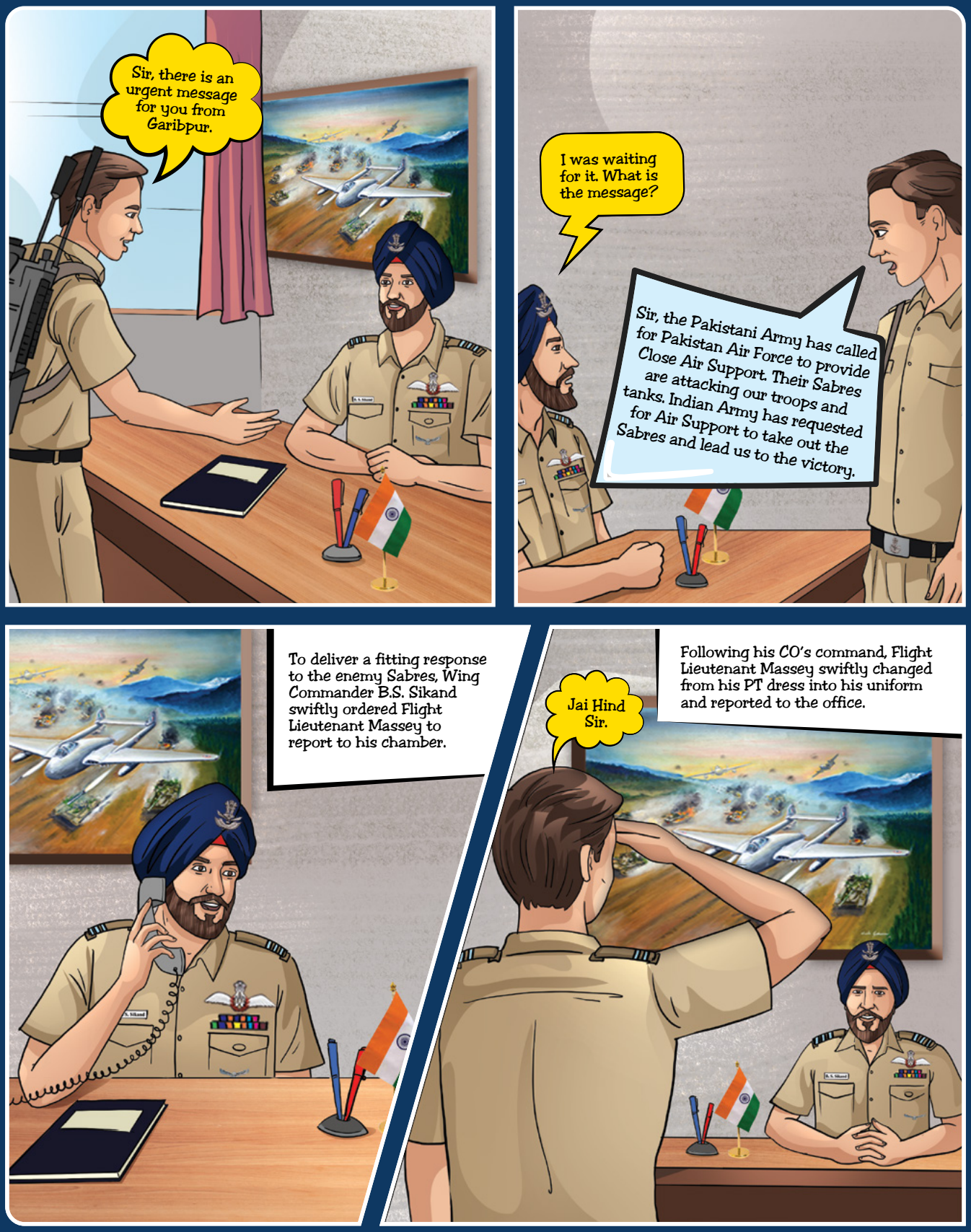


Leading the pack were four fighter pilots: Flight Lieutenant Roy Andrews Massey (Mouse), Flight Lieutenant M. Ganapathy (Gun), Flying Officer Soares (Su), and Flying Officer Donald Lazarus (Don). They were setting an inspiring example, embodying true leadership among their comrades.

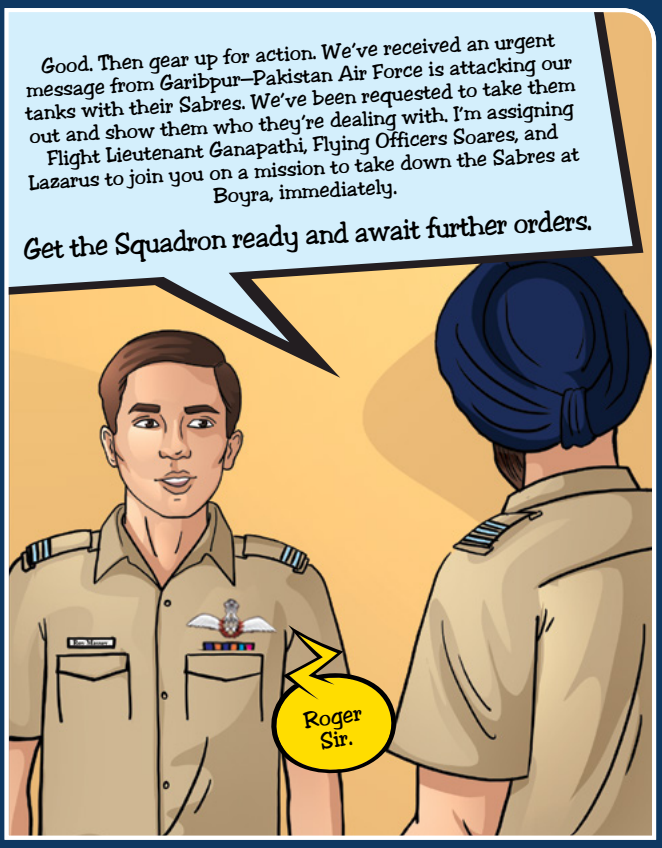


While the squadron was busy having an enthusiastic run, an urgent message from Garibpur crackled over the high-frequency radio. The radio man ran as fast as possible to relay the information to his Commanding Officer, Wing Commander B.S. Sikand.




Sir, there is an urgent message for you from Garibpur.
I was waiting for it. What is the message?
Sir, the Pakistani Army has called for Pakistan Air Force to provide Close Air Support. Their Sabres are attacking our troops and tanks. Indian Army has requested for Air Support to take out the Sabres and lead us to the victory.
To deliver a fitting response to the enemy Sabres, Wing Commander B.S. Sikand swiftly ordered Flight Lieutenant Massey to report to his chamber.
Following his CO's command, Flight Lieutenant Massey swiftly changed from his PT dress into his uniform and reported to the office.
Jai Hind Sir.


How's the training going on Massey?
It is going well, Sir. The boys are desperate for action.


Good. Then gear up for action. We've received an urgent message from Garibpur—Pakistan Air Force is attacking our tanks with their Sabres. We've been requested to take them out and show them who they're dealing with. I'm assigning Flight Lieutenant Ganapathi, Flying Officers Soares, and Lazarus to join you on a mission to take down the Sabres at Boyra, immediately.
Get the Squadron ready and await further orders.
Roger Sir.


The role of 22 Sqn was to provide Air Defence and Ground Attack in support of Indian Army in the eastern sector. The Sqn was raring for action.
This is what we were waiting for. Let the enemy know that this is their last mistake.
Absolutely sir. They won't live to see another day.

The bravehearts of 22 Sqn. geared up for battle, and moved to Dum Dum, to be closer to the action.

Meanwhile, at a Indian Air Force Radar Unit in Barrackpore, Flying Officer K.B. Bagchi stared intently on his Radar scope. A Fighter Controller, he served as the eyes for these pilots, guiding them from the ground with real-time updates on enemy aircraft.
At 0811 hours, Bagchi detected a a flurry of activity on the radar.

4 Sabres on radar at Jessore! **Scramble! Scramble! Scramble!**

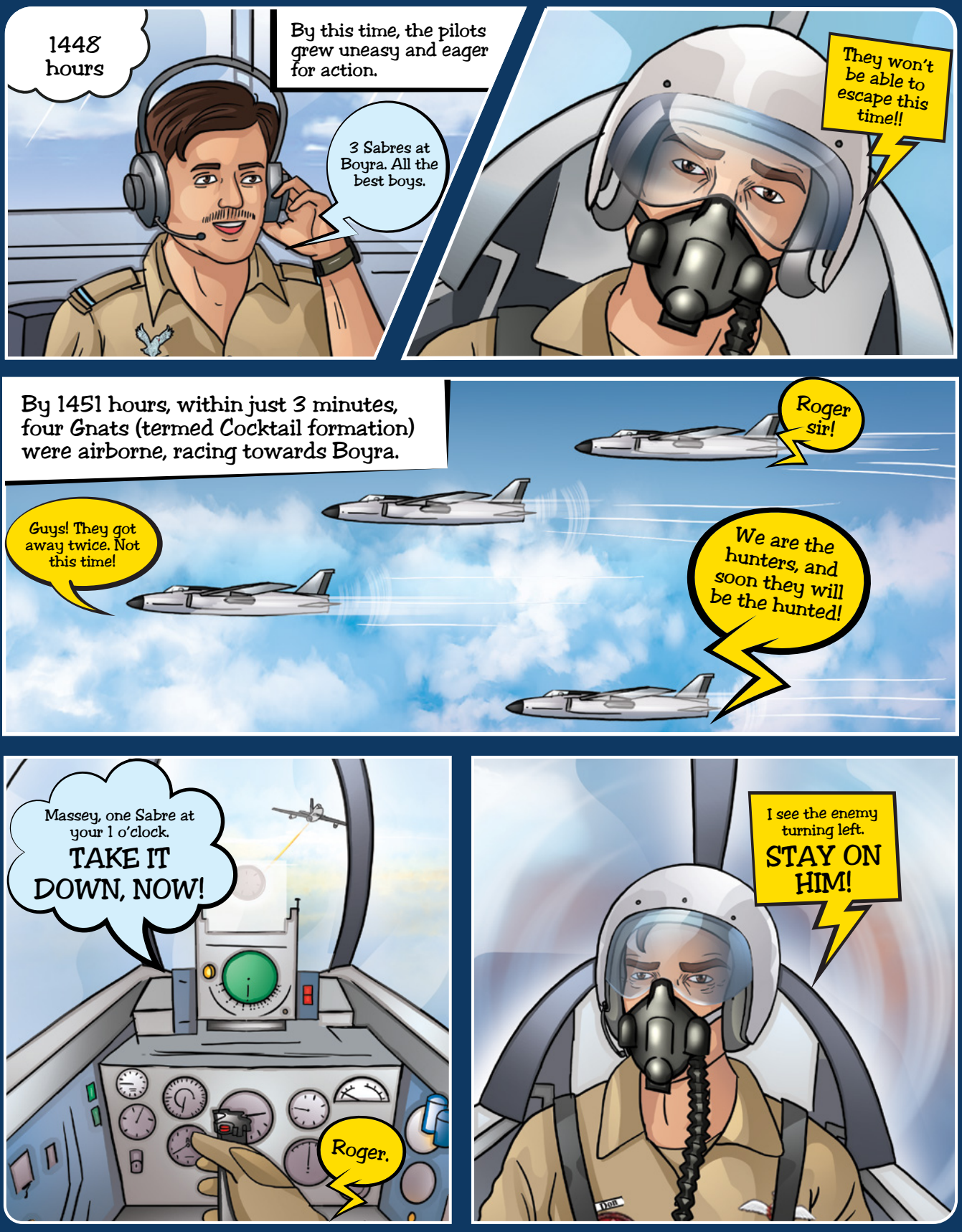
Roger. Move! Move! Move!

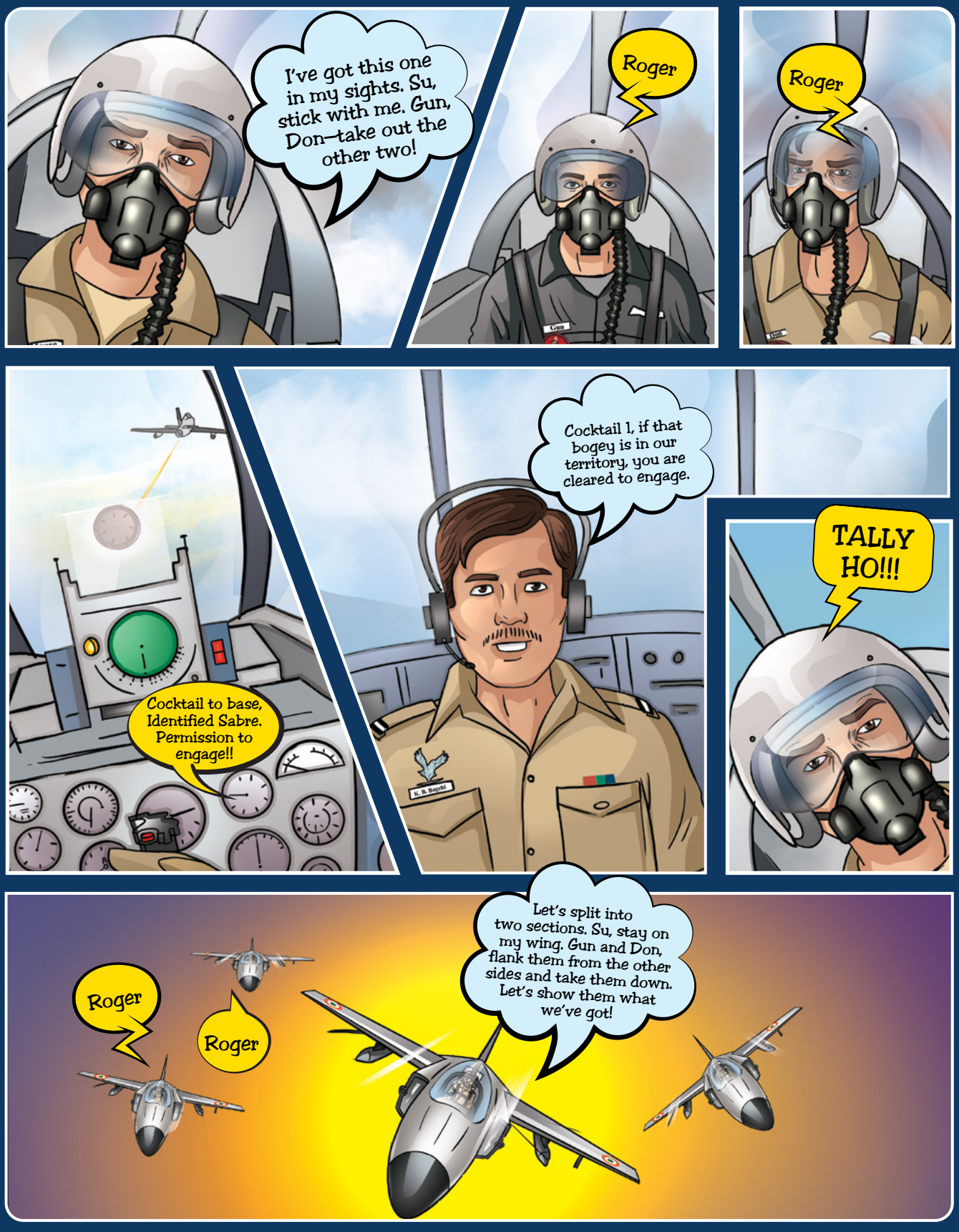
Mouse

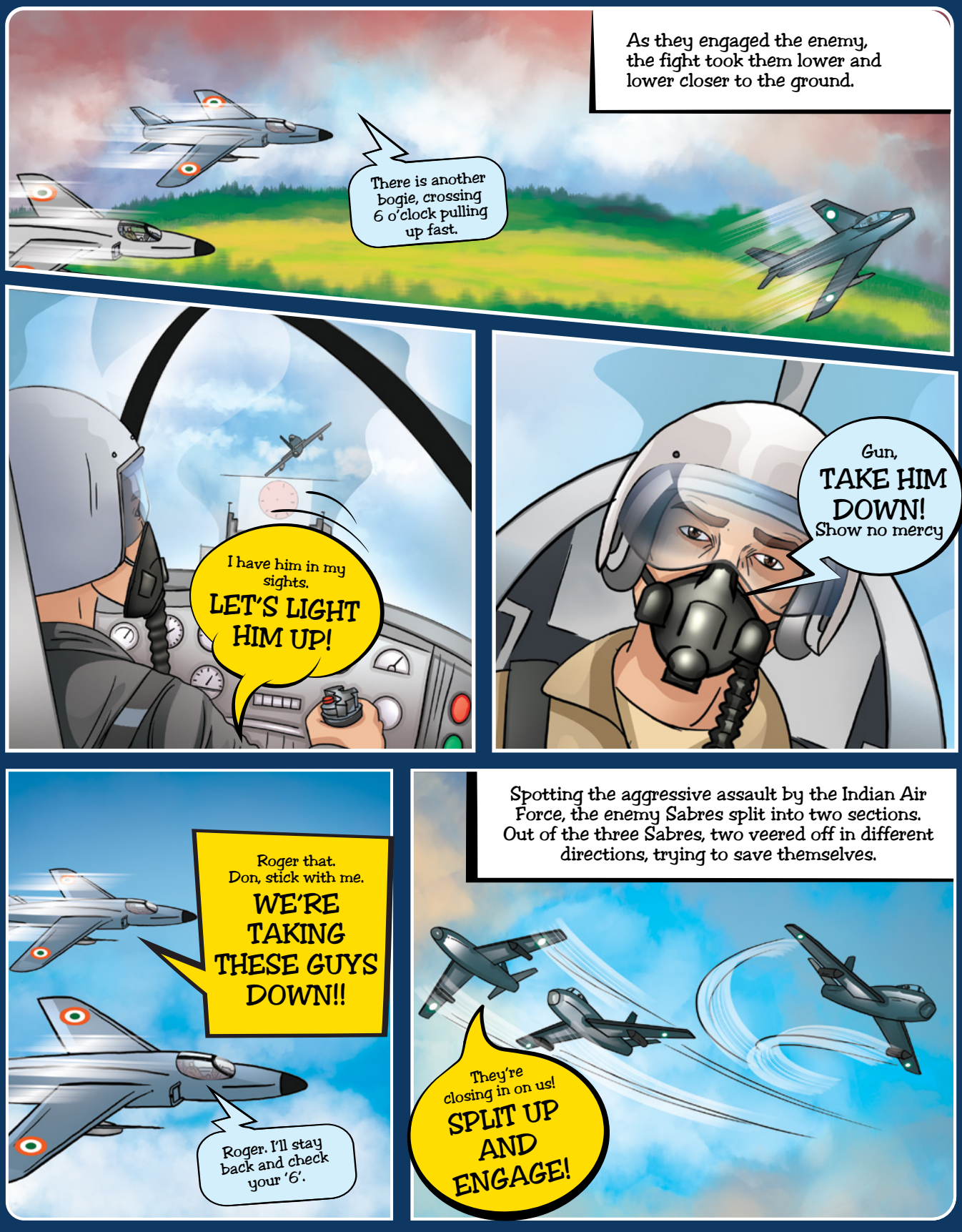
Despite launching in good time, the mission was unable to neutralise the enemy. Disappointed, they landed back.

At 1028 hours, again an attempt was made, but the Sabres could not be spotted.

I think the Sabres have gone back...


1448 hours
By this time, the pilots grew uneasy and eager for action.
3 Sabres at Boyra. All the best boys.
They won't be able to escape this time!!
By 1451 hours, within just 3 minutes, four Gnats (termed Cocktail formation) were airborne, racing towards Boyra.
Roger sir!
Guys! They got away twice. Not this time!
We are the hunters, and soon they will be the hunted!
Massey, one Sabre at your 1 o'clock.
TAKE IT DOWN, NOW!
Roger.
I see the enemy turning left.
STAY ON HIM!


I've got this one in my sights. Su, stick with me. Gun, Don—take out the other two!
Roger
Roger
Cocktail to base, Identified Sabre. Permission to engage!!
Cocktail 1, if that bogey is in our territory, you are cleared to engage.
TALLY HO!!!
Roger
Roger
Let's split into two sections. Su, stay on my wing. Gun and Don, flank them from the other sides and take them down. Let's show them what we've got!


As they engaged the enemy, the fight took them lower and lower closer to the ground.
There is another bogie, crossing 6 o'clock pulling up fast.
I have him in my sights. LET'S LIGHT HIM UP!
Gun, TAKE HIM DOWN! Show no mercy
Roger that. Don, stick with me. WE'RE TAKING THESE GUYS DOWN!!
Roger. I'll stay back and check your '6'.
Spotting the aggressive assault by the Indian Air Force, the enemy Sabres split into two sections. Out of the three Sabres, two veered off in different directions, trying to save themselves.
They're closing in on us! SPLIT UP AND ENGAGE!

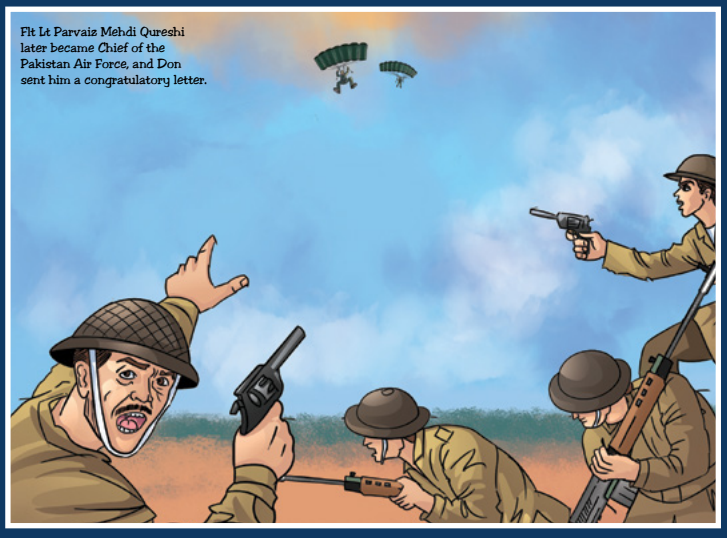

As the Gnats dived in, two Sabres, abandoned their mission. They found themselves trapped in a vulnerable position right in front of Ganapathy and Lazarus.
HRRR!! HRRR!! HRRR!!
Gotcha! Bogey at 12 o'clock. He's not going home today!!
Gun: MURDER, MURDER, MURDER.
Oh, you lucky brat, Gun! Now it's my turn to shine. Another enemy is closing in from below. I've got him in my sights!
Don: GOT HIM!!! SAY GOODBYE.



Both enemy pilots ejected from their Sabres, believing they had escaped to safety. Little did they know, their ordeal was far from over. As they descended, Indian Army soldiers on the ground awaited their arrival, swiftly capturing them as Prisoners of War.

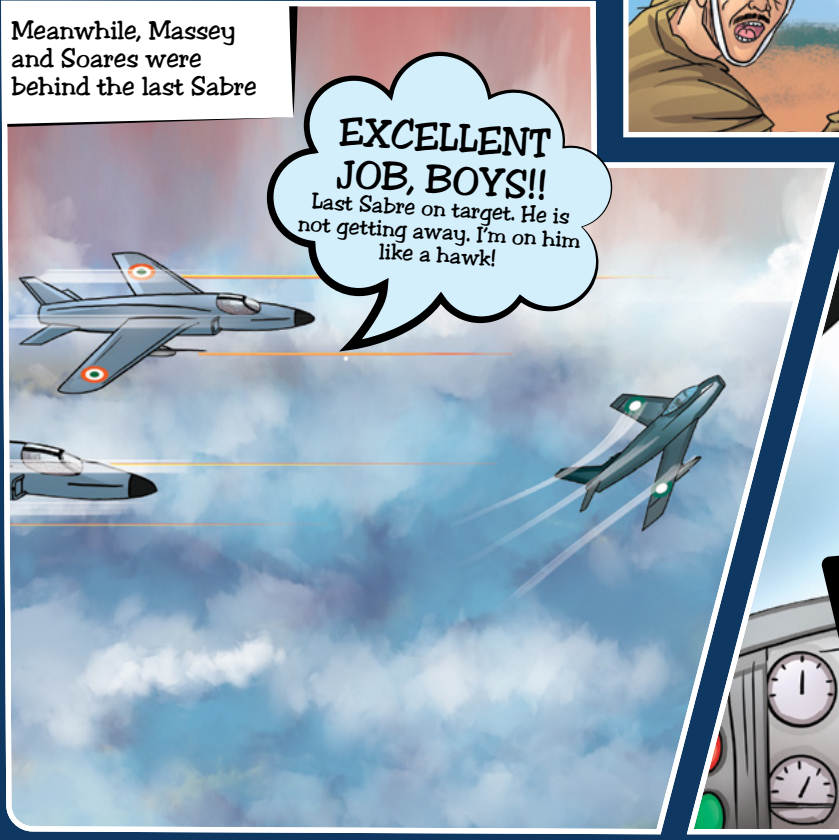


Pakistani pilots named- Flt Lt Parvaiz Mehdi Qureshi and Fg Offr Khalil Ahmed

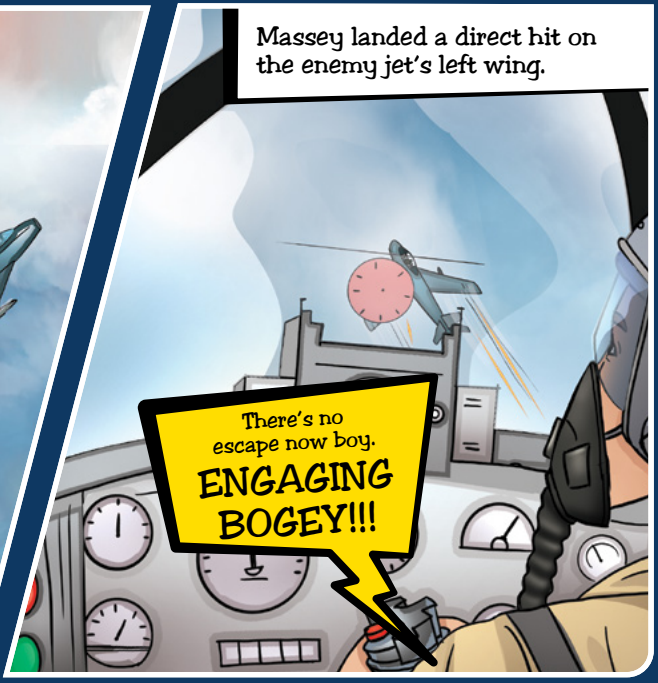


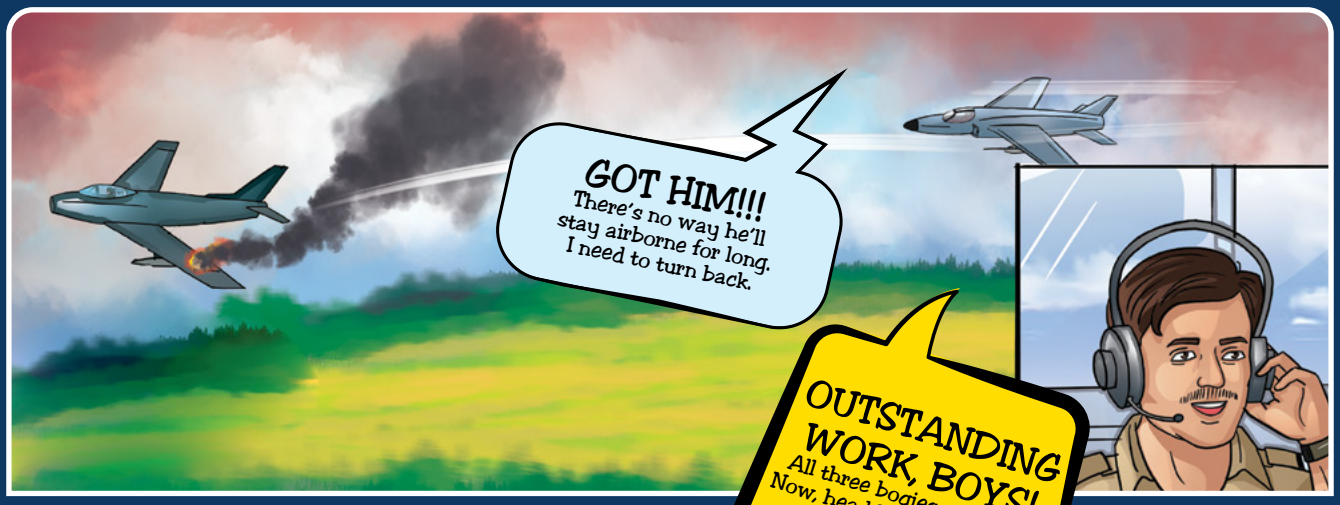
Flt Lt Parvaiz Mehdi Qureshi later became Chief of the Pakistan Air Force, and Don sent him a congratulatory letter.

Meanwhile, Massey and Soares were behind the last Sabre

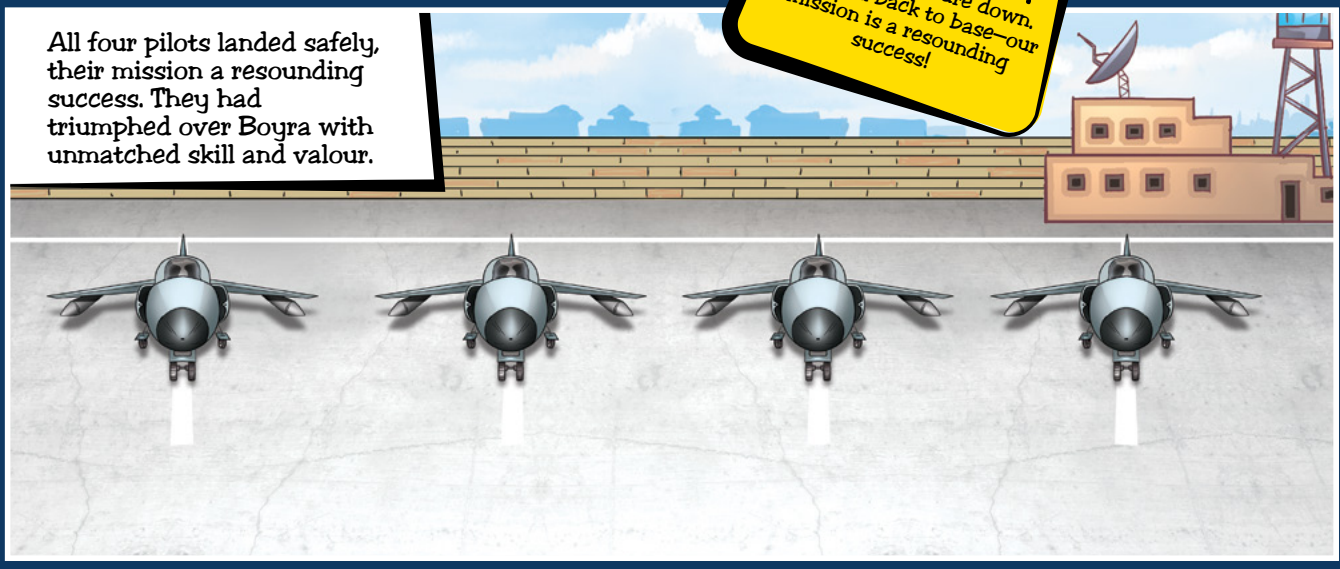


Massey landed a direct hit on the enemy jet's left wing.

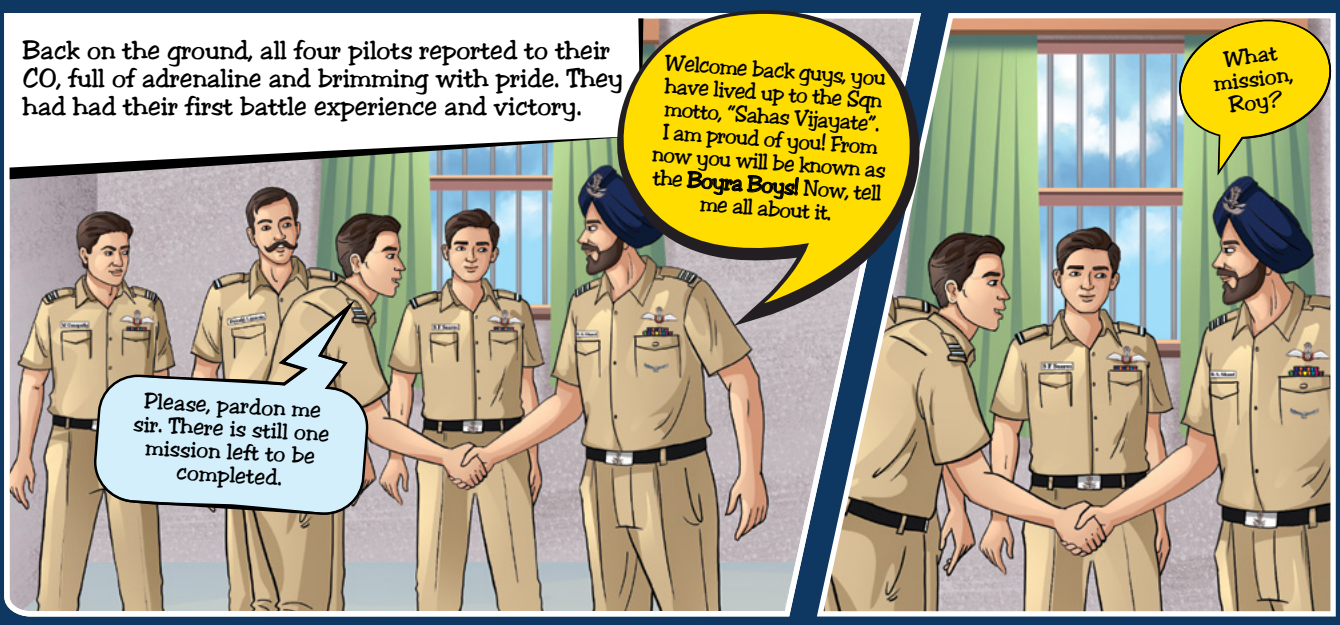


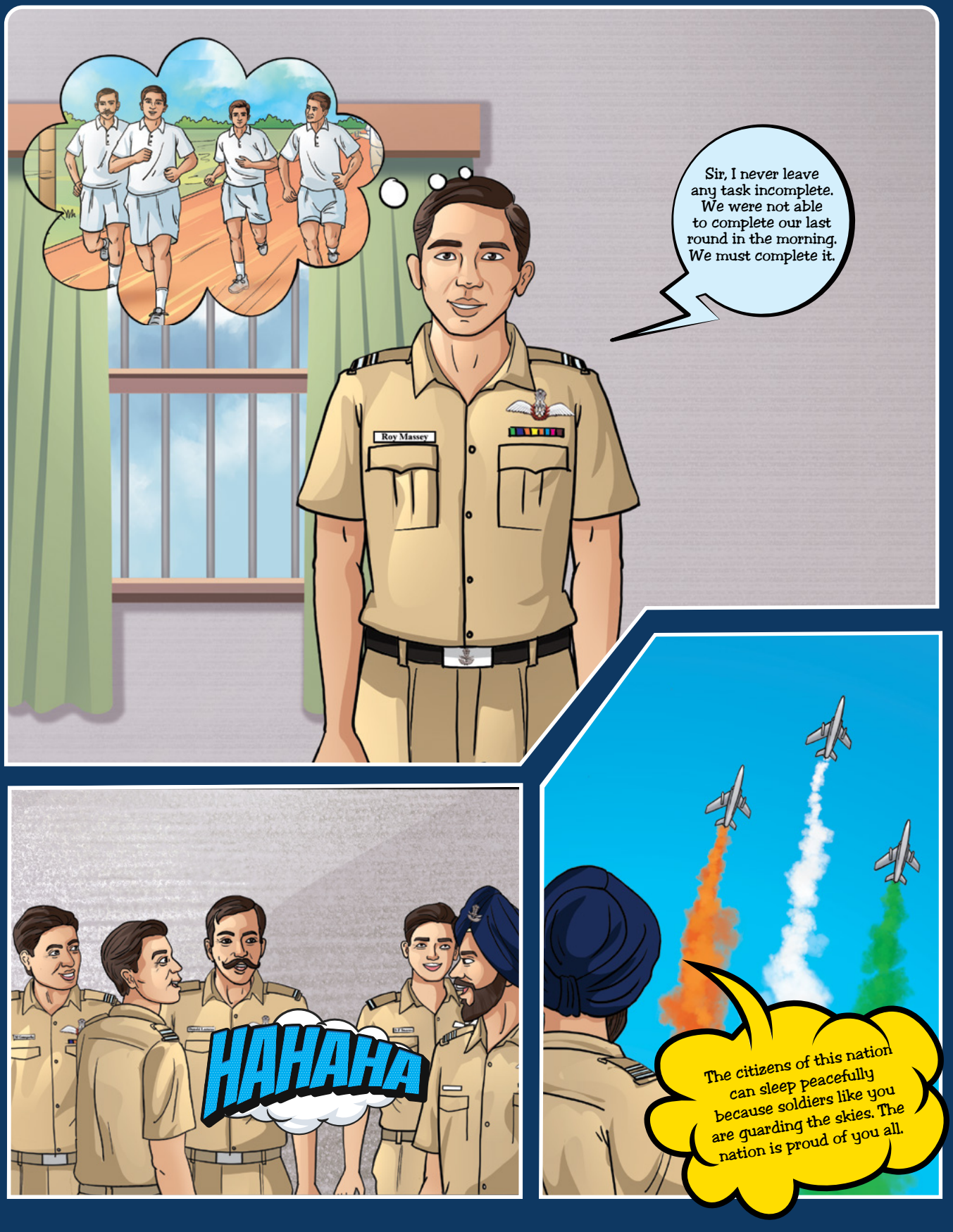


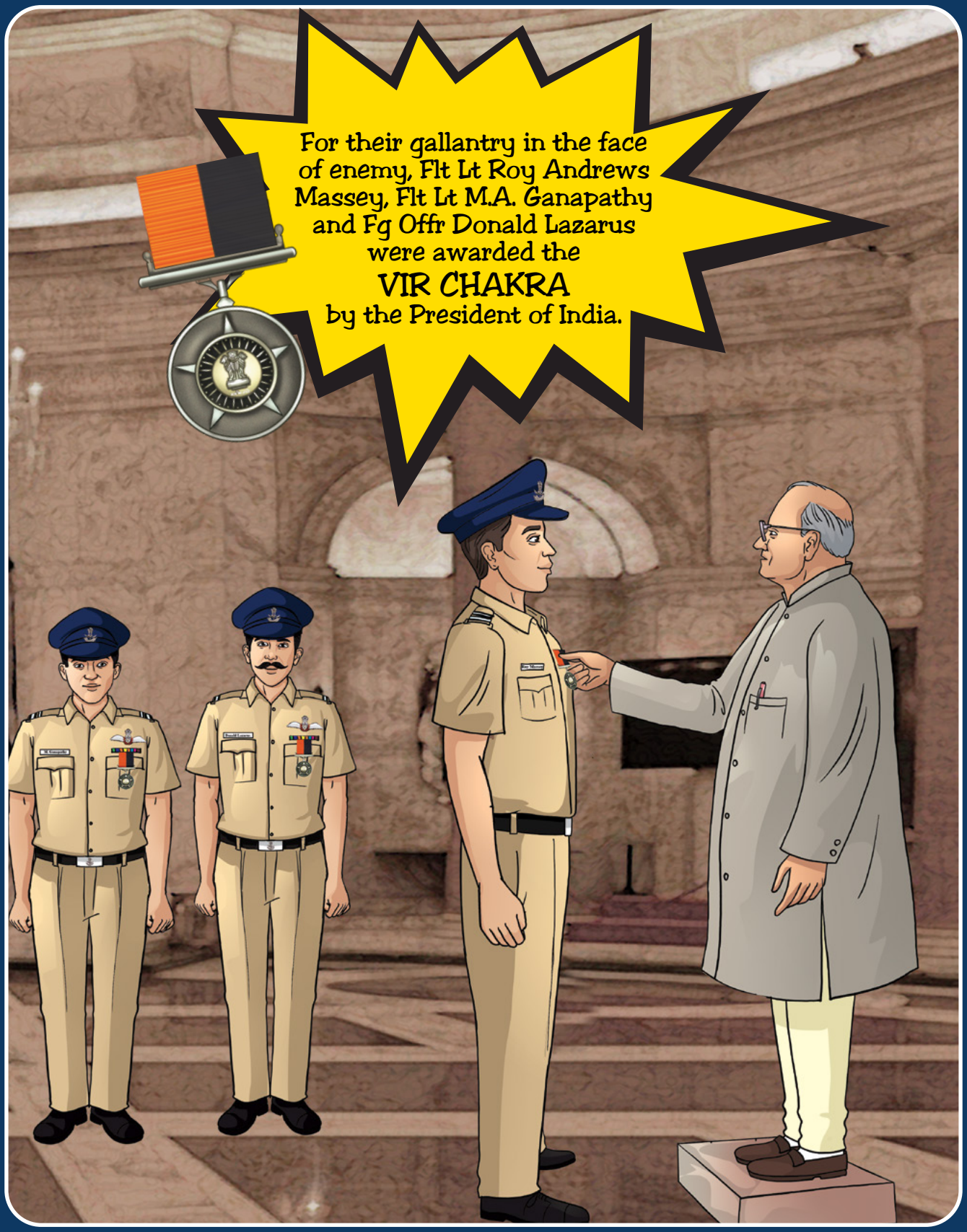
All four pilots landed safely, their mission a resounding success. They had triumphed over Boyra with unmatched skill and valour.



Back on the ground, all four pilots reported to their CO, full of adrenaline and brimming with pride. They had had their first battle experience and victory.




Sir, I never leave any task incomplete. We were not able to complete our last round in the morning. We must complete it.
Roy Massey
HAHAHA
The citizens of this nation can sleep peacefully because soldiers like you are guarding the skies. The nation is proud of you all.


For their gallantry in the face of enemy, Flt Lt Roy Andrews Massey, Flt Lt M.A. Ganapathy and Fg Offr Donald Lazarus were awarded the
VIR CHAKRA
by the President of India.

BRANCHES IN INDIAN AIR FORCE

JOIN THE INDIAN AIR FORCE: A WAY OF LIFE DEDICATED TO THE SERVICE OF THE NATION AND LIFETIME OF ADVENTURE!

Depending on one's qualifications, The Indian Air Force (IAF) offers exciting opportunities for bright young men and women to serve the nation and defend the skies. One can join IAF in following branches:

FLYING BRANCH

As a Flying Branch officer, one can serve the nation by engaging the enemy in air combat, para-dropping troops or supplies at forward posts or carrying out rescue missions during natural calamities. As a fighter pilot, one can fly advanced fighter aircraft like Tejas, Rafale, Su-30 MKI, Mirage-2000, Jaguar and the MiG-29 UPG. Whereas, a transport pilot gets an opportunity to fly the best of heavy and medium lift aircraft like C-130 (Hercules), C-17 Globe Master, IL-76, IL-78, C-295, An-32, etc. As a helicopter pilot one gets to fly Apache, Chinook, ALH, Dhruv, Rudra, Mi-17, Mi-35, Prachand, etc.

GROUND DUTY (TECHNICAL) BRANCHES

Aeronautical Engineer (Mechanical) officers specifically deal with aircraft structure and propulsion, and explosive technology and regulation.

Aeronautical Engineer (Electronics) officers specifically deal with Airfield Navigation and Modern Airfield Infrastructure, Radar, Microwave Technology and Communication Engineering, and Advanced Network Centric Warfare.

GROUND DUTY (NON-TECHNICAL) BRANCHES

Weapon Systems Branch officers specialise in execution of operational tasks of units equipped with weapon systems like SAMs, SAGWs, Surface to Surface Missiles and Remotely Piloted Combat Aircraft. Officers of this branch will also be Weapon System Operators/Combat System Operators in multi-crew aircraft.

Administration Branch officers are responsible for the efficient management of both human and material resources. Some officers of the Administration Branch are selected and trained to carry out Air Traffic Controller & Fighter Controller duties.

Logistics Branch officers are responsible for materiel management of all IAF's resources. They undertake activities pertaining to forecasting, provisioning, and procurement of various equipment and inventory management.

Accounts Branch officers are responsible for budgeting and efficient management of funds. They function as advisors on all financial matters and also act as internal auditors.

Education Branch officers work towards improvement of educational standards of IAF personnel and their dependents.

Meteorology Branch officers render professional advice on all aspects related to weather that are essential for conduct of air operations.

The Heroes in focus - The Boyra Boys



Wing Commander B.S. Sikand



The Indian Pilots Roy Massey, MA Ganapathy and Don Lazarus became heroes overnight.



M. Ganapathy



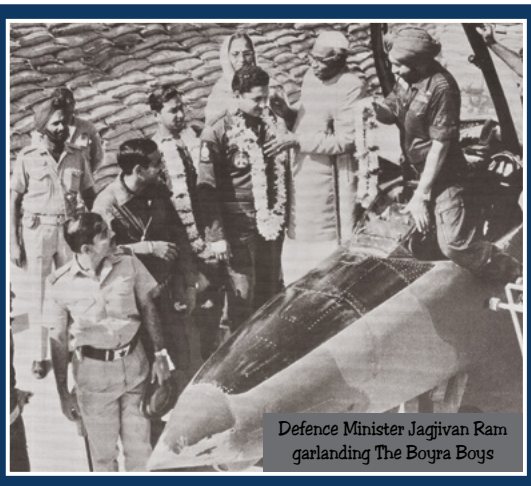
S.F. Soares



Donald Lazarus



The Boyra boys. (From L-R) Flight Lieutenant Roy Andrew 'Mouse' Massey, Flying Officer KB Bagchi (Fighter Controller), Flying Officer Donald 'Don' Lazarus, Flying Officer SF 'Su' Soares, Flight Lieutenant MA 'Gun' Ganapathy



Defence Minister Jagjivan Ram garlanding The Boyra Boys

Find your Calling

There comes a point in our lives, when we all start thinking of our career plans. Will I have a good future? Will I be able to achieve my dreams in the domain I am thinking about? The answer to all these questions is very simple.

Ask yourself, what's your calling?

'Find your Calling' is a story of Rahul who is struggling hard with loss of his father who was an Air Force Officer. He often thinks like any teenage boy: "If Dad would have been here, I would not have to worry about it". Today, when he needs his father the most to help him with his career plans, Rahul stumbled upon a treasured book in his father's library—a biography of the legendary Marshal of the Air Force Arjan Singh DFC.

Arjan Singh began his career after receiving training at the Royal Air Force (RAF) College, Cranwell, and soon got battle hardened in the operations against the Pathans in the North-Western Province. During the World War II he participated in operations against the Japanese in the Burma campaign and turned the tides in the 1965 war against Pakistani troops.

As Rahul delves into Arjan Singh's transformative story of courage, he ignites his own passion and finds his calling. The story shows, how the legacy of one remarkable individual, can illuminate the future for another.

The Boyra Boys

The Indian Air Force soars as the symbol of bravery and strength, fiercely protecting India's skies with unmatched precision and dedication. One such story of valour is "The Battle of Boyra", where three Indian Air force pilots became the 'Sabre Slayers' and were awarded the Vir Chakra.

Amidst escalating tensions and the 1971 genocide in East Pakistan (now, Bangladesh), Bengali nationalists formed the "Mukti Bahini" guerrilla army. With nearly 10 million Bangladeshi refugees coming in, India increased its involvement and stationed troops near the border.

The Boyra salient, including Garibpur, was a critical junction with a key highway to Jessore. Securing this area was crucial for both the nations.

On 21 November 1971, the Indian Army and Mukti Bahini repelled Pakistani troops at Garibpur. Unable to break through, the Pakistani army called for air support. On 22 November 1971, the skies thundered as the Pakistani Air Force launched several Sabre Mk 6 fighter aircraft against Indian troops. In response, the Indian Air Force deployed ace pilots from No. 22 Squadron 'Swifts' equipped with the Folland Gnat aircraft. What followed was the epic aerial battle, now called the Battle of Boyra, in which the young Indian Air Force pilots shot down two Pakistani Sabres.

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