

The Bravest Deed I ever Saw

It appears that on following up the retreating enemy after the defeat of Gwalior, on January 2, 1858, at Khodaganj, he saw in the distance two sepoy making off with a standard. This was an inspiration, and the young lieutenant was not long in translating it into a deed. Putting spurs to his horse, he dashed after them, and, coming up with them just as they were about to enter the village, engaged them. Turning immediately on hearing the gallop of the Englishman's horse, they presented their muskets at him and waited his approach. On went the young lieutenant far in advance of his comrades, and surrounded by enemies on every hand. In a moment he was upon them with all the impetus of his wild, daring rush. Over went one of the rebels, rolling on the ground as the young soldier clutched the staff of the flag and wrenched it free. The second sepoy pressed the barrel of his musket against the body of the lieutenant; but happily the weapon missed fire, and he bore back the flag in triumph. Such were the circumstances under which Lord Roberts honoured the V.C.

Lord Roberts was at that time a lieutenant of the Bengal Artillery, and a contemporary despatch says of him: "Lieutenant Roberts's gallantry has on every occasion been most marked."

He next served as major on the North-West Frontier of India in 1863, and in 1868 as Assistant Quartermaster-General with the Bengal Brigade in the Abyssinian expedition. For the next twelve years he was occupied