



# Keeping it

## The seeds of gallant scenes

My interest in bravery started more than 60 years ago, when I was a schoolboy. My late father Eric, who was a modest man, told me about his experiences as a young officer during the D-Day landings.

My dad and his CO were privately briefed to expect 75% casualties as they landed and ran up Sword Beach at dawn on June 6, 1944. In the end, my father's commanding officer, Lieutenant-Colonel Richard Burbury, was shot dead at

his side and my dad was wounded by shrapnel – although he fought on until ordered from the battlefield.

As a young boy and later as an adult man, I posed lots of questions in relation to my passion for courage. What makes some people respond to danger differently to others?

Are we all capable of a certain level of valour, given the right circumstances? What is the crucial factor that makes some people more courageous? Is it in

Three men, two generations, one award. In this exclusive article, **Lord Ashcroft** profiles the Gough family's Victoria Cross recipients and asks, is battlefield bravery hereditary?

I am sometimes asked whether I think there is a 'bravery gene'. My simple answer to that is "not specifically", but there is undoubtedly overwhelming evidence that some families have a greater propensity to display immense courage. Step forward... the Gough clan.

Their achievement over two generations is nothing short of incredible. Two brothers were both awarded the Victoria Cross, Britain and the Commonwealth's premier award for gallantry in the presence of the enemy, in the mid-19th century. Then, early in the 20th century, one of these VC recipients' sons was also awarded the VC, meaning three close members of the same family each received the famous decoration in less than half a century.

At the very least, this could suggest that valour runs in the blood.

*“What makes some people respond to danger differently to others? Are we all capable of a certain level of valour, given the right circumstances?”*





# t in the family

their upbringing or their training? Are they motivated by patriotism, religious conviction or a respect for those fighting alongside them? Is it simply due to an old-fashioned sense of duty?

Or is bravery really, as I have already referred to, in some way hereditary?

Over the decades I have found it easier to ask such questions than to answer them. I have also found it easier simply to admire and champion gallantry rather than try to fully understand it. And, in the

case of the Gough family, there is ample valour to admire and champion.

The 1850s presented severe challenges to the British military. First, the army and navy had to fight the Crimean War in the harshest of conditions from 1854-56. Then, just a year later, the Indian Mutiny broke out. This comprised a prolonged period of armed insurrection in northern and central India.

The rebellion proper began on May 10, 1857, and targeted the rule of the British

East India Company, which operated as a sovereign power on behalf of the Crown. Sepoys – native soldiers from the Bengal Army serving under British officers – protested the British occupation of that part of the subcontinent, but, after growing unrest, the ‘spark’ was the introduction of a new rifle cartridge.

This, which had to be bitten open to pour the gunpowder contents into the muzzle, had according to local rumour been greased – to make it waterproof –

THE THREE GOUGH VCS:  
FROM LEFT, GENERALS  
SIR CHARLES GOUGH VC,  
SIR HUGH GOUGH VC AND  
SIR JOHN GOUGH VC  
LORD ASHCROFT/GETTY/  
ALAMY





## MARTIAL DYNASTIES



He took part in the Punjab Campaign of 1848-49, which led to the annexation of the Punjab. Charles was present at the battles of Chillianwala (January 13, 1849) and Goojerat (February 21, 1849), serving under his great-uncle Lord (later Viscount) Hugh Gough.

On September 1, 1848, Charles was promoted to lieutenant in the 8th Bengal Light Cavalry. Subsequently, he served during the Indian Mutiny and was promoted to captain in June 1857, by which point he was 25. He initially served with the Guides Cavalry (the mounted element of the Corps of Guides) and later transferred to Hodson's Irregular Horse.

He was mentioned in despatches during the Siege of Delhi from June to September 1857, which ended in a key victory for the British/East India Company forces.

with lard (pork fat) or tallow (beef fat). This was offensive to Muslim and Hindu soldiers alike, forbidden by their religions to consume pork or beef, respectively. There were significant uprisings in Cawnpore, Lucknow (where the British residency was besieged for six months) and Jhansi, which became the heart of the rebellion.

The mutiny, which has been given numerous names including the First War of Independence, continued until June 20, 1858. The uprising and its suppression resulted in the award of 182 VCs – some of them for clearing-up operations lasting into 1859.

Two of these VCs were bestowed on two brothers from a distinguished Irish military family.

### Hodson and Hugh

Charles John Stanley Gough was the son of George Gough and his wife Charlotte (née Becher), who lived in Rathronan House, County Tipperary. The Goughs had six children. Charles, the couple's second son, was born on January 28, 1832, in Chittagong, India, when his father was working for the Bengal civil service. Part of George Gough's job was to act as a judge for the East India Company's High Court.

Charles was educated in England, at Haileybury College, a public school in Hertfordshire. He was commissioned as a cornet, unattached to any regiment, on March 20, 1848, two months after his 16th birthday.

ABOVE: ONE OF CHARLES GOUGH'S EARLY ACTIONS WAS THE BATTLE OF CHILLIANWALA CHARLES BECHER YOUNG (ARTIST) / NATIONAL ARMY MUSEUM

ABOVE RIGHT: DURING THE 1848 PUNJAB CAMPAIGN, CHARLES GOUGH WOULD SERVE UNDER HIS GREAT-UNCLE, LORD HUGH GOUGH (PICTURED), COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF, INDIA ROYAL COLLECTION



ONE OF THE ACTIONS FOR WHICH CHARLES GOUGH WOULD RECEIVE THE VC. HE IS DEPICTED, STANDING CENTRE, AT KHURKOWDAH, IN THE ACT OF SAVING HIS BROTHER, HUGH LOUIS DESANGES (ARTIST) / NATIONAL ARMY MUSEUM



Charles' VC was, unusually, awarded for four separate acts of courage. The first took place in mid-August 1857 and involved him saving his brother's life. On August 14, a cavalry detachment led by Lieutenant William Stephen Raikes Hodson left camp outside Delhi with the intention of intercepting mutineers who had left the city. Heading northwest, the British feared the rebels would cut the Grand Trunk Road, a key route connecting Delhi with Punjab.

The next day, the British attacked a house at Khurkowdah, near Rohtak, in which mutineers had barricaded themselves.

Part of the attacking force included both Captain Charles Gough and his brother, Lieutenant Hugh Gough. At the height of the battle, Hugh was wounded and looked likely to be killed. However, Charles raced



to his aid, killing two rebels and pulling his brother to safety.

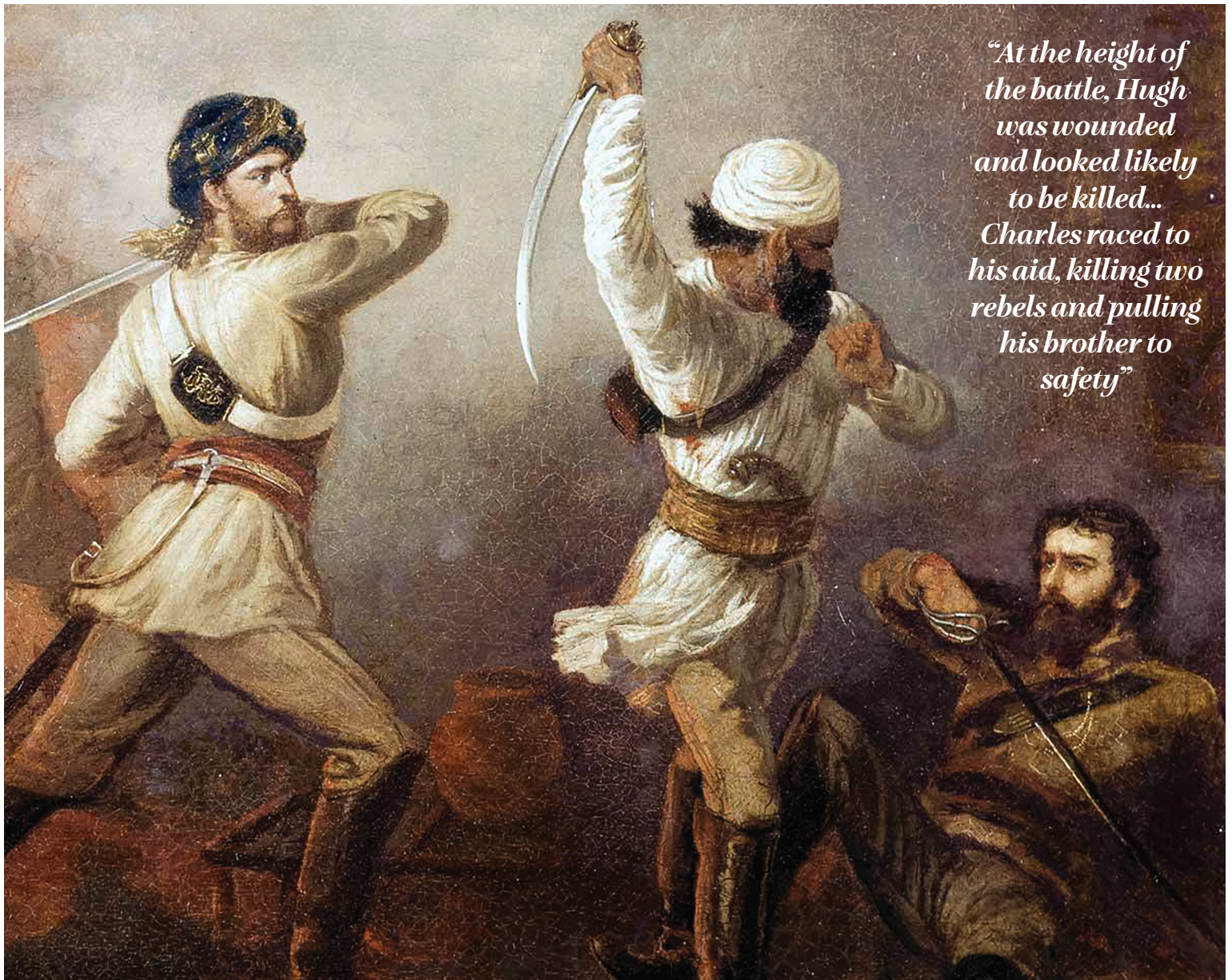
### Desperate combat

Just three days later, Charles was back in the fray, leading a troop of the Guides Cavalry in a charge against the mutineers. He was engaged in what was later described as "desperate hand-to-hand combat" with a rebel.

More close combat occurred on January 27, 1858, at Shamshabad. Again, at the forefront of a charge, he attacked a rebel leader and pierced him with his sword.

However, in the frenzy, Charles lost his sabre and resorted to his revolver, killing two more rebels.

The fourth act of gallantry came on February 23, at Meangunge. On this occasion, Charles raced to the aid of Brevet Major Octavius Henry St George Anson, killing



*"At the height of the battle, Hugh was wounded and looked likely to be killed... Charles raced to his aid, killing two rebels and pulling his brother to safety"*



## MARTIAL DYNASTIES



his comrade's opponent and cutting down another mutineer.

Unrelated to his VC-earning actions, Charles was also present at the final capture of Lucknow in November 1857.

In all, Charles was mentioned in despatches five times for his actions during the mutiny. His Victoria Cross was announced sometime after, on October 21, 1859. He received the award from Queen Victoria at an investiture in Windsor Castle.

Charles also participated in the Bhootan Expedition in 1864-66 and the Second Afghan War in 1878-80. Having been appointed KCB for his services in the latter, he was advanced to general in 1894

and elevated to GCB in 1895 – the year of his retirement – when he returned to his native Ireland.

Charles had married Harriette Power, the daughter of an MP, on June 16, 1869, in Killaloe Church, Killadean, County Tipperary, and the couple went on to have six children. He died on September 6, 1912, at Innislonagh, Clonmel, and was buried in St Patrick's churchyard in Clonmel. There is a memorial plaque and window in St Patrick's church.

I am delighted to be the proud custodian of the Charles Gough medal group, which I purchased at a Spink auction in London in 1996. This brave man's gallantry and service medals are on display at

THE MEDALS OF  
GENERAL CHARLES  
JOHN STANLEY GOUGH  
LORD ASHCROFT



LIEUTENANT HUGH  
GOUGH WAS OFTEN  
TASKED WITH LEADING  
TROOPS OF HODSON'S  
HORSE ON THE FLANKS  
OF A BRITISH ADVANCE  
CHRONICLE/ALAMY





the gallery bearing my name at the Imperial War Museum, London.

### A brilliant example

The second member of the Gough family to receive the award was Hugh, the very same man whose life had been saved by his brother at Khurkowdah. Hugh Henry Gough was the third son of George and Charlotte and was born in Calcutta on November 14, 1833. Like his elder brother, he attended Haileybury College.

Commissioned as a cornet into the 3rd Bengal Light Cavalry on September 4, 1853, aged 19, Hugh was promoted to adjutant and was serving in Hodson's Horse during the mutiny. As stated, it was on August 15, 1857, that his brother Charles saved his life. During this battle, Hugh was wounded but he made a quick recovery.

He would be awarded his own VC for two acts of bravery at Lucknow.

The citation for his decoration stated: "Lieutenant Gough, when in command of a party of Hodson's Horse near Alumbagh, on November 12, 1857, particularly distinguished himself by his forward bearing in charging across a swamp and capturing two guns – although defended by a vastly superior body of the enemy.

"On this occasion he had his horse wounded in two places, and his turban cut through by sword cuts,



whilst engaged in combat with three Sepoys. Gough also particularly distinguished himself, near Jellalabad, on February 25, 1858, by showing a brilliant example to his regiment. When ordered to charge the enemy's guns, and by his gallant and forward conduct, he enabled them to effect their object.

"On this occasion he engaged himself in a series of single combats,

BRITISH AND INDIGENOUS OFFICERS OF HODSON'S HORSE, AN IRREGULAR CAVALRY UNIT OF WHICH HUGH GOUGH WAS A MEMBER. ITS COMMANDER, WILLIAM RAIKES HODSON, IS CLAIMED TO BE SEATED RIGHT, BUT THIS IS DISPUTED GETTY MUSEUM COLLECTION

until at length he was disabled by a musket ball through the leg, while charging two Sepoys with fixed bayonets. Lieutenant Gough on this day had two horses killed under him, a shot through his helmet, and another through his scabbard, besides being severely wounded."

Both actions should be put in context. The first took place as Sir Colin Campbell began the final leg of his march towards Lucknow, where the rebels had maintained substantial strength and were keeping the residency under siege. Campbell's advanced guard was attacked by two guns and infantry near Jellalabad Fort, south of Alumbagh.

It was at this point that Hugh and his party from Hodson's Horse outflanked the mutineers and charged them, forcing them to flee. The second action also took place near Jellalabad Fort. On this occasion Hodson's Horse attacked a force of rebels in the process of retreating towards Lucknow.

Once again, Hugh made a fine recovery from his serious injuries received during this second VC action. His decoration was announced on Christmas Eve, 1858. It is not known where and when he was presented with the medal.

During the Indian Mutiny, he was also mentioned in despatches several times and publicly thanked by the Governor General of India – twice.

*"Johnnie made no mention of his own involvement in the rescue. However, his men drew the attention of the authorities to his role"*



THE REMAINS OF THE BRITISH RESIDENCY AT LUCKNOW, WHICH WAS BESIEGED BY SEPOYS FOR A TOTAL OF 148 DAYS IN TWO DISTINCT ENVELOPMENTS CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF ART





BRITISH GENERALS OF THE PESHAWAR VALLEY AND KURRAM VALLEY FIELD FORCES, INCLUDING SAMUEL BROWNE, SIR HERBERT MACPHERSON, JOHN TYTLER, SIR HUGH GOUGH AND FREDERICK APPLEBYARD  
JOHN BURKE /BRITISH LIBRARY

**From Magdala to Mazra**

Like his elder brother, Hugh went on to have a splendid military career in the wake of his gallantry. In 1868, he took part in the Abyssinia Campaign. He led the 12th Bengal Cavalry and was present at the Capture of Magdala, being mentioned in despatches again for his courage.

He next served, as a colonel, during the Second Afghan War and was mentioned in despatches no less than six times during that conflict. He led the cavalry of the Kurram Field Force in 1878-79. At Peiwar Kotal on December 2, 1878, he was the first to reach the crest and, with his cavalry, pursued the enemy as they fled along the Alikhel road.

He was also in the thick of the action at Matun, where he took part in dismounted fire and several bold charges. He succeeded in driving the tribesmen to the highest ridges, from which they were dislodged by artillery in January 1879.

That September, he served with the Kabul Field Force as Brigadier General of Communications. He was present at the engagement of Charasiab on October 6, and was wounded during operations close to Kabul in December. As the war drew to a close, he led the troops engaged in the cavalry pursuit after the Battle of Mazra on September 1, 1880. Hugh was promoted to general in 1894 and retired after 46 years of



BRITISH TROOPS GUARD THE KOKET-BIR GATE AFTER THE CAPTURE OF MAGDALA FORTRESS UNKNOWN PHOTOGRAPHER

loyal and distinguished service in 1897. He had been appointed KCB in 1881 and was elevated to GCB the year before he retired. He published his thoughts on the Indian Mutiny in a work called *Old Memories*.

In 1898, he was appointed Keeper of the Crown Jewels at the Tower of London, a position he held for six years. He had married Annie Hill in Simla, India, on September 8, 1863, and the couple had four sons and four daughters. He died in St Thomas's Tower on May 12, 1909,

aged 75, and was buried at Kensal Green Cemetery, London.

There is a memorial plaque to him at Haileybury College – now an independent co-educational boarding school known simply as Haileybury. There is also a plaque in his honour at Lahore Cathedral in Pakistan.

**Courageous careers**

The third VC recipient of this martial dynasty was John Edmond Gough, born on October 25, 1871,



at Murree, India. He was the second son of General Sir Charles Gough VC and his uncle was General Sir Hugh Gough VC.

Affectionately nicknamed 'Johnnie' by family and friends, John was educated from 1881 at Bucklands' School in Laleham, Middlesex, and, from 1885, at Eton before attending the Royal Military College, Sandhurst. It was unsurprising that he opted for a military career given the courageous exploits of his father and uncle three decades earlier.

Johnnie was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Rifle Brigade in March 1892, joining the 1st Battalion in India. He was promoted to lieutenant in December 1893 and transferred to the 2nd Battalion in Ireland in

March 1895. After a period on 'special service' in British Central Africa from 1896-97, he returned to regimental duty.

### The 'Mad Mullah'

Johnnie served during the Nile expedition of 1898, being promoted to captain in December the following year. In October 1899, he was posted with his battalion to South Africa and served during the Second Boer War. The conflict was fought between the British Empire and two Boer republics: the Orange Free State and the Transvaal. After a long, hard-fought campaign, the Boers were defeated and absorbed into the British Empire.

Johnnie took part in the defence of Ladysmith and later served as aide-de-camp to Major-General

Francis Howard of the 8th Brigade, and as signals officer to that brigade. He became district commissioner at Lydenburg in Transvaal in October 1900 and was promoted to brevet major in November.

After leave in England, Johnnie was posted with his comrades from the Rifle Brigade (The Prince's Consort Own) to Somaliland to take part in the operations against Mohammed bin-Abdullah Hassan. Known as the 'Mad Mullah', Hassan led forces that were raiding British territory. After Johnnie was placed in command of the Bohotle column, his force engaged the Mullah's troops at Daratoleh on April 22, 1903. During the battle, Gough went out under heavy fire to help one of his officers, the wounded Captain C M Bruce. Gough and two captains risked their lives to prevent Bruce falling into the hands of the enemy where he would almost certainly have faced an altogether more terrible death.

Of the three who took part in the rescue, the two most junior officers were the only ones to be awarded the VC.

As published in *The London Gazette* on August 7, 1903, the citation detailed how Captains William Walker and George Rolland raced some 500 yards to get assistance for their stricken comrade. They had succeeded in their aim, but Captain Bruce was hit by a second round as he lay wounded on a pathway.

The joint citation ended: "But for the gallant conduct displayed by these officers and men, Captain Bruce must have fallen into the hands of the enemy."

*"It was unsurprising that Johnnie opted for a military career given the exploits of his father and uncle three decades earlier"*



HAILEYBURY COLLEGE WAS A PUBLIC SCHOOL FOUNDED AS A TRAINING ESTABLISHMENT BY THE EAST INDIA COMPANY, INTENDED TO DEVELOP SOLDIERS AND ADMINISTRATORS FOR BRITISH INDIA. CHARLES AND HUGH GOUGH WERE ALUMNI AND AT LEAST 20 STUDENTS LATER EARNED THE VC OR GC ANDREW HOLT/ALAMY



MEMBERS OF THE RIFLE BRIGADE IN 1896. ESTABLISHED AS THE 95TH RIFLES, THE LONG-SERVING REGIMENT WAS COMMONLY DEPLOYED ON BRITAIN'S 19TH CENTURY CAMPAIGNS AND DURING THE WORLD WARS HANTS AV



**Cutting himself out**

There was no mention of Johnnie's involvement for one simple reason – modesty. In fact, Johnnie Gough had personally drawn up a report on the rescue, in which he described the role played by Walker and Rolland. Yet, he made no mention of his own key involvement in it.

However, his men felt this was such an injustice that they drew the attention of the authorities to Johnnie's role.

The result was that he was also awarded the VC, announced in *The London Gazette* on January 14, 1904. His short citation read: "During the action at Daratoleh, on April 22 last, Major Gough assisted Captains Walker and Rolland in carrying back the late Captain Bruce and preventing that mortally wounded officer from falling into the hands of the enemy.

"Captains Walker and Rolland have already been awarded the VC for their gallantry on this occasion, but Major Gough (who was in command of the column) made no mention of his own conduct, which has only recently been brought to notice."

He received his VC from King Edward VII at an investiture at St

PART OF THE BOER SIEGE LINE THAT ENVELOPED BRITISH FORCES, INCLUDING JOHN GOUGH, IN LADYSMITH FOR 118 DAYS. JOHN'S BROTHER, HUBERT, WOULD LEAD THE FIRST TROOPS OF THE RELIEF FORCE INTO THE TOWN  
HERITAGE IMAGES /TOPFOTO



James' Palace, later in 1904. His father and his uncle, VC recipients from the late 1850s, were alive and so this created the unique situation in which three living members of the same family held the VC simultaneously.

This was truly quite astonishing – even for an era in which the VC was undoubtedly far more frequently awarded than it is today.

In December 1905, Johnnie was appointed deputy assistant adjutant general in Ireland. He was promoted to brevet colonel in

August 1907 and was also appointed as aide-de-camp to Edward VII.

By this point he was married, having wed Dorothea Keyes, daughter of General Sir Charles Patton Keyes, at Hampton Court Palace on June 29, 1907.

Johnnie and his wife went on to have a daughter.

In January 1909, Johnnie was appointed officer commanding British troops in Somaliland. However, he became ill and was invalided home in June with suspected hepatitis.

THE FAMOUS PAINTING OF THE RELIEF OF LADYSMITH, DEPICTING LADYSMITH'S GARRISON COMMANDER, SIR GEORGE WHITE VC, GREETING JOHN GOUGH'S BROTHER, MAJOR HUBERT GOUGH, REPORTEDLY WITH THE WORDS: "HELLO HUBERT, HOW ARE YOU?"  
JOHN FREDERICK BACON (ARTIST) /NATIONAL ARMY MUSEUM







DRAWN BY W. HATHERILL, R.L.

The late Mr. Mead, in describing the battle at Daratoleh, wrote—“Owing to shortness of ammunition and the large number of our wounded, Major Gough now decided to retire to Dhanoo. After four hours’ fighting, the enemy’s fire was slackening, but it had not yet been silenced. Accordingly a final charge was made from the front and left flanks, led by Captain Walker and

Captain Townsend. At a point the retreat commenced in great confusion, the dead and wounded being tied on camels. The enemy immediately pressed upon the regiment, which, owing to the thick bank, got considerably in rear of the main column. Captain Bruce, R.A., Staff Officer to Major Gough, who was with the regiment, was wounded at twenty yards’ distance, falling on the path

unable to move. With him were Captain Walker, Captain Rolland of the Intelligence Department, two Vets, one Sikh, and one man of the Somali Camel Corps. Meanwhile the column, unaware of what happened, was going further away. Captain Rolland ran back 300 yards, and returned with a Ghazal camel for Bruce, while Captain Walker and the men remained with Bruce,

keeping off the enemy. This they successfully accomplished, but not before Bruce was hit again, and the Sikh wounded. But for this gallant conduct Bruce would have fallen into the enemy’s hands.” Captain Bruce did not long survive his wounds.

FROM A SKETCH BY OUR SPECIAL ARTIST, THE LATE W. T. HAVID

AN HEROIC INCIDENT OF THE BATTLE OF DARATOLEH: THE RESCUE OF CAPTAIN BRUCE

In October 1913, he was appointed chief of staff of Aldershot Command, with the rank of brigadier-general. His commanding officer was Lieutenant-General Sir Douglas Haig, who hugely valued his more junior officer’s advice.

### Curragh and crisis

At this point, the situation in Ireland became complex, with the country pushing for independence. But protestants in the north were also alarmed at the prospect of being

ruled by a catholic majority in the south. Johnnie was an intelligent man with a strong grasp of Irish history: increasingly concerned with the volatile political situation, he began to voice his worries regarding the position of the army in any future crisis. Indeed, such were his fears that Johnnie engineered a meeting in Buckingham Palace with Lord Stamfordham, the King’s private secretary, during which he said he thought it unlikely the army would act against the Ulster Volunteers if ordered to do so. The situation

reached crisis point in March 1914.

Johnnie’s elder brother, Brigadier-General Sir Hubert de la Poer Gough, was then in command of the 3rd Cavalry Brigade at the Curragh. He made it clear that his own refusal to contemplate suppressing resistance to home rule in Ulster was supported by many of his officers.

This, in turn, led to the ‘Curragh Mutiny’ in County Kildare – referred to as a ‘mutiny’ although no orders actually given were disobeyed. However, a series of telegrams passed between the two Gough brothers, and in England, Johnnie obtained the support of officers in the Aldershot and London commands.

He also made a series of telephone calls and had meetings with the Chief of the Imperial General Staff, Field Marshal Sir John French, and others, explaining his own attitude and the stance that his fellow officers were prepared to take.

At a historic meeting at the War Office on March 23, 1914, the Gough brothers were given an assurance that officers would not be compelled to act against those in Ulster seeking home rule.

For many years, Johnnie’s elder brother was portrayed as the ringleader of the mutiny. It later emerged that Johnnie himself played a significant role, but just two months afterwards the pressure he

CAPTAINS WALKER AND ROLLAND, TOGETHER WITH MAJOR GOUGH, RESCUE THE ILL-FATED CAPTAIN BRUCE, WHO WAS ONE OF GOUGH’S STAFF OFFICERS  
ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS/MARY EVANS



MEMBERS OF THE SUFFOLK REGIMENT ON PARADE AT CURRAGH CAMP DURING THE ‘MUTINY’ HULTON ARCHIVE/GETTY



## MARTIAL DYNASTIES

had been under over the situation seemed to take its toll – he collapsed with severe abdominal pains and underwent surgery; a recurrence of a problem that had plagued him since his time in Somaliland five years earlier. He recovered sufficiently to be appointed Chief of Staff of I Corps, British Expeditionary Force, on the outbreak of World War One.

Johnnie took part in the retreat from Mons and was mentioned in despatches. In December 1914, he was appointed Chief of Staff of First Army. However, on February 20, 1915, he was seriously wounded in the stomach by a sniper's bullet while inspecting the trenches near Fauquissart crossroads in France. He underwent emergency surgery at the field hospital at Estaires but, two days after being wounded, he suffered a fatal heart attack, aged only 43. Johnnie was buried at Estaires Communal Cemetery and, unusually, was posthumously created KCB by the King in April 1915. His name is on the VC/GC memorial at Eton College and he is also honoured at Winchester Cathedral. His VC is on display at the Royal Green Jackets Museum, Winchester.

THE DEATH OF GENERAL JOHN GOUGH VC MADE FRONT PAGE NEWS JOHN FROST NEWSPAPERS/ALAMY

BELOW: JOHN GOUGH (SECOND RIGHT) WITH GENERALS HAIG, MONRO AND PERCEVAL. HAIG WAS THEN GOC I CORPS. PROFESSOR IAN BECKETT WROTE OF GOUGH'S DEATH: "HAIG LOST A SOUNDING BOARD WHICH WAS HIGHLY CONSTRUCTIVE YET FAR FROM UNCRITICAL. HAD JOHNNIE GONE ON TO COMMAND A DIVISION THEN IT SEEMS ALMOST CERTAIN HE WOULD HAVE RISEN MUCH FURTHER IN THE ARMY." HUBERT GOUGH SOMEWHAT TOOK JOHNNIE'S PLACE AND LATER LED THE FIFTH ARMY OFFICIAL PHOTOGRAPH



HOW GERMANY IS LED TO BELIEVE SHE IS THE MISTRESS OF THE SEAS. (See Page 12).

# DAILY SKETCH.

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No. 1,869. LONDON, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 1915. (Registered as a Newspaper) ONE HALFPENNY.

## ANOTHER FIGHTING GOUGH DIES FOR THE EMPIRE.

LONDON GAZETTE, 18 FEBRUARY, 1915.  
*To be Commemorated in the Order of the Bath.*  
 Colonel (temporary Brigadier-General) J. E. Gough, V.C., C.M.G., A.D.C.

From the *London Gazette* of last week.

Brigadier-General Gough (second from the left) studies the plan of campaign in a French village.

With his brother Hubert (on right), another famous soldier.

Brigadier-General J. E. Gough, V.C.

His straw bed at the front.

Brigadier-General John E. Gough, V.C., has died from wounds received at the front. He was the son of General Sir Charles Gough and a member of the famous family of Fighting Goughs. The inscriptions on their tombs record unexampled devotion to duty and service to the Empire. Brigadier-General J. E. Gough won his V.C. in Somaliland. He was at the head of a small force which had to fight its way back through a host of natives. He mentioned two of his subordinates for gallantry, and suppressed all record of his own bravery. But the secret of his heroism leaked out. \* of the V.C. was his reward.

*“The award of three VCs to two generations of the same family will almost certainly never be repeated”*

### Immense admiration

My admiration for the Gough family is immense, even more so after speaking with the 5th Viscount Gough, Shane Gough.

Currently 81, he is related to all three VC recipients, and told me: “Our family is very proud of the gallantry displayed by all three VC recipients, while other family members, including my own father, have also received gallantry awards. “The award of three VCs to two generations of the same family will almost certainly never be repeated.”

I remain intrigued that there are so many other occasions where members of the same family have been highly decorated.

The history books show that, over the 167 years since the VC was created, three fathers and sons have been awarded the decoration, as have four pairs of brothers.

Furthermore, there are numerous cases of blood relatives being awarded two or more gallantry awards. I have already confessed to not fully understanding what seems to make some people braver than others. However, I do believe that the late, great Nelson Mandela was right when he said: “The brave man is not he who does not feel afraid, but he who conquers that fear.”

I suspect Charles, Hugh and Johnnie all felt afraid during their respective VC actions, but nevertheless showed the mental and physical strength to overcome that fear.

Their unprecedented achievement of having three VCs undoubtedly entitles them to be regarded as “Britain and Ireland’s bravest family”. Their collective valour must be cherished for ever more. **BW**

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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