

# The RIVER of DOUBT

AN INTERESTING DISCUSSION TAKES PLACE AT THE EXPLORER'S CLUB IN NEW YORK CITY.

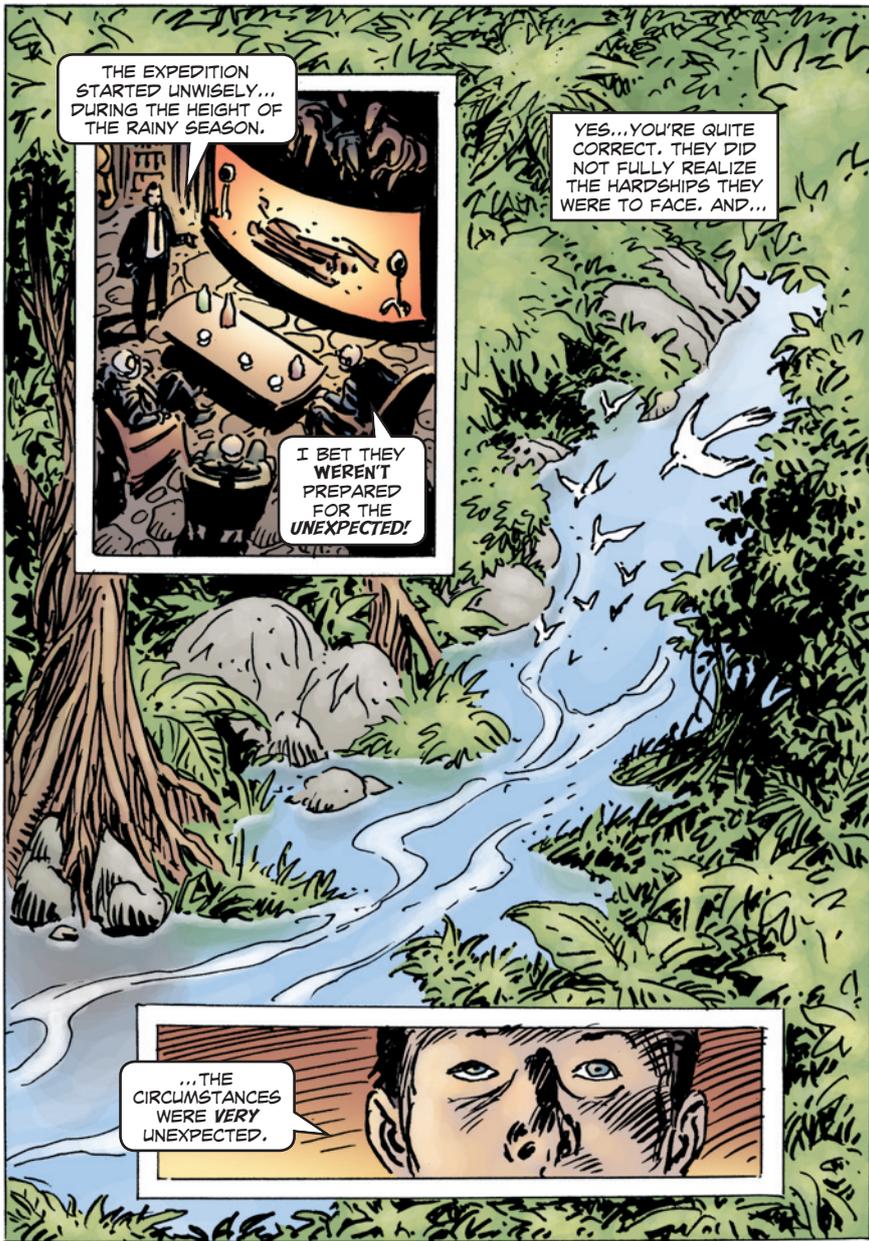
THE TOPIC IS AN EXPEDITION TO SOUTH AMERICA THAT TOOK PLACE IN 1914.



THEODORE ROOSEVELT IV, GREAT-GRANDSON OF PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT, SPEAKS...

THE JOURNEY'S GOAL WAS TO FIND THE HEAD-WATERS OF THE RIO DA DUVIDA, (THE RIVER OF DOUBT) AND TRACE IT TO THE AMAZON RIVER.





THE EXPEDITION STARTED UNWISELY... DURING THE HEIGHT OF THE RAINY SEASON.

YES...YOU'RE QUITE CORRECT. THEY DID NOT FULLY REALIZE THE HARDSHIPS THEY WERE TO FACE. AND...

I BET THEY WEREN'T PREPARED FOR THE UNEXPECTED!

...THE CIRCUMSTANCES WERE VERY UNEXPECTED.



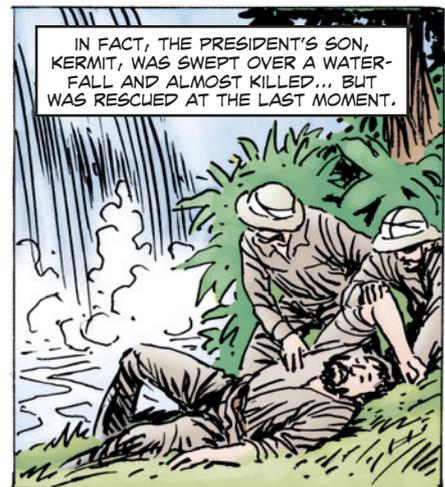
THE EXPEDITION MEMBERS FACED STINGING INSECTS...



...RAGING FLOODS...



...AND HOSTILE NATIVES.



IN FACT, THE PRESIDENT'S SON, KERMIT, WAS SWEEPED OVER A WATER-FALL AND ALMOST KILLED... BUT WAS RESCUED AT THE LAST MOMENT.



THAT WAS FORTUNATE BECAUSE KERMIT LED THE EFFORT TO MAINTAIN THE EXPEDITION'S EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES.

BUCK UP, LADS! GOOD EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE AND COURAGE WILL SEE US SAFELY HOME!



GOOD LAD!  
SO HE WAS INDISPENS-  
ABLE?

WITHOUT QUESTION,  
IT WAS KERMIT'S  
DETERMINATION TO  
CONTINUE THAT KEPT  
THE PARTY TOGETHER.



WE **MUST** TAKE CARE  
OF OUR EQUIPMENT.  
THIS CANOE IS IN  
GOOD SHAPE, BUT IT  
NEEDS PM.

WHAT  
IS  
PM?



PM MEANS  
PREVENTIVE  
MAINTENANCE.  
THE EFFORT  
THAT'S  
NECESSARY  
TO KEEP  
YOUR  
EQUIPMENT  
WORKING  
PROPERLY  
AND **MISSION-  
READY!**



MAKES  
SENSE!



RAINY WEATHER WAS  
A **CONSTANT PROBLEM**  
ON THE 1500 MILE  
EXPEDITION.

THIS TENT  
PATCH WILL KEEP  
THE RAIN OUT.



CHECK THIS  
NETTING EVERY  
NIGHT AND FIX  
ANY HOLES.  
THAT'LL KEEP  
THE BUGS **OUT!**

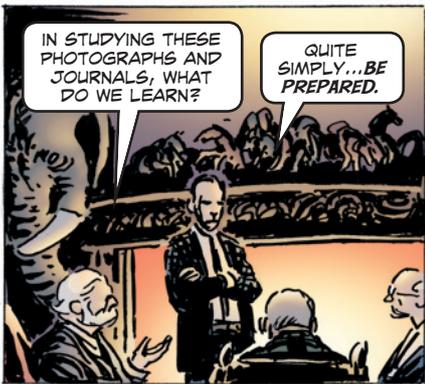


THE EQUIPMENT AND FOOD LISTS  
WERE CHECKED EVERY DAY AS  
THE EXPEDITION CONTINUED.



KEEP THE  
QUININE TABLETS  
SEALED.

KEEP SOCKS  
AND BOOTS  
DRY. IT'S THE  
ONLY WAY TO  
PREVENT  
**DRY ROT.**



IN STUDYING THESE  
PHOTOGRAPHS AND  
JOURNALS, WHAT  
DO WE LEARN?

QUITE  
SIMPLY...**BE  
PREPARED.**



THIS OIL WILL PREVENT  
MOISTURE FROM RUSTING  
THESE FIREARMS.



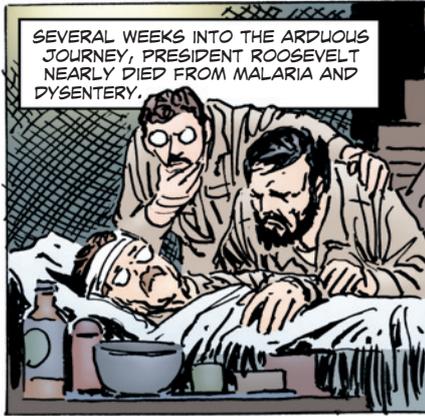
THE EXPEDITION MAPPED  
UNEXPLORED AREAS OF  
SOUTH AMERICA AND  
DISCOVERED NEW SPECIES  
OF EXOTIC FLORA AND  
ANIMAL SPECIES.



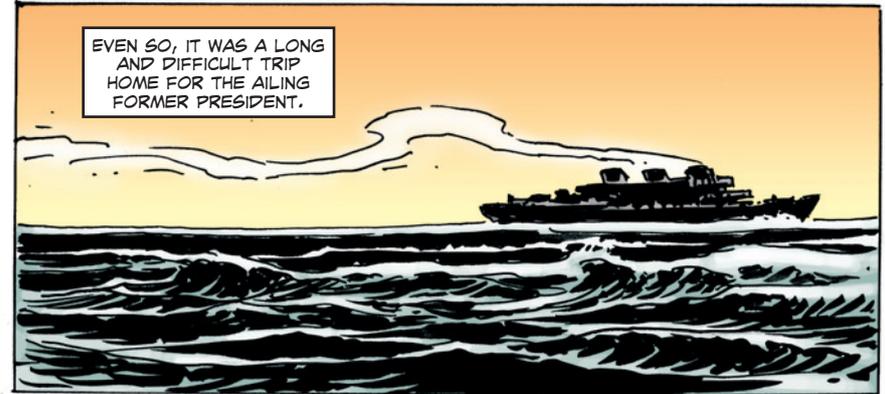
IT PROVIDED  
A SIGNIFICANT  
COLLECTION FOR THE  
AMERICAN MUSEUM OF  
NATURAL HISTORY.



NONETHELESS, THE EXPEDITION CAME AT A HEAVY COST.



SEVERAL WEEKS INTO THE ARDUOUS JOURNEY, PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT NEARLY DIED FROM MALARIA AND DYSENTERY.



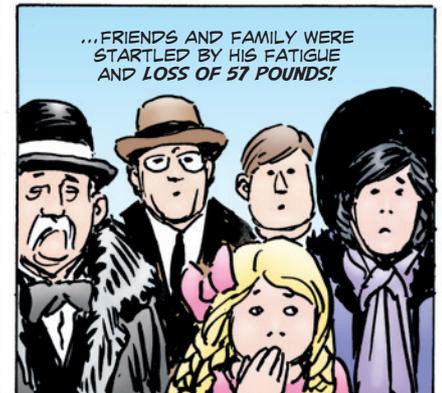
EVEN SO, IT WAS A LONG AND DIFFICULT TRIP HOME FOR THE AILING FORMER PRESIDENT.



HE WAS UNABLE TO WALK FOR MOST OF THE EXPEDITION...



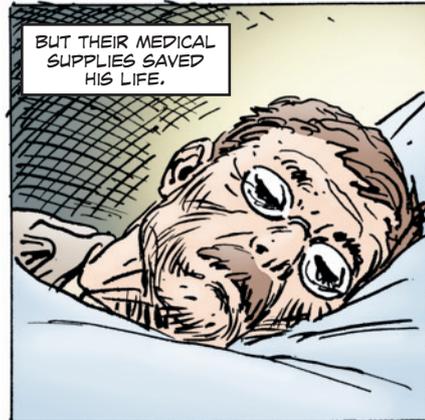
ALTHOUGH HE WAS GREETED WARMLY ON HIS ARRIVAL BACK TO AMERICA...



...FRIENDS AND FAMILY WERE STARTLED BY HIS FATIGUE AND LOSS OF 57 POUNDS!



...AND HAD TO BE ATTENDED DAY AND NIGHT BY THE DOCTOR.



BUT THEIR MEDICAL SUPPLIES SAVED HIS LIFE.



HE LATER WROTE A FRIEND THAT THE TRIP HAD CUT HIS LIFE SHORT BY TEN YEARS.



IT WAS A HARD LESSON, BUT ONE THAT CAN TEACH US ALL THE IMPORTANCE OF PREPARATION!



IN 1914, AT THE INVITATION OF BRAZILIAN EXPLORER CANDIDO RONDON, PRESIDENT THEODORE ROOSEVELT AND HIS SON, KERMIT, DID INDEED LEAD AN EXPLORATION OF THE UNCHARTED "RIVER OF DOUBT". TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT IT, SEE ROOSEVELT'S NARRATIVE, "THROUGH THE BRAZILIAN WILDERNESS", AS WELL AS OTHER RELATED BOOKS, AVAILABLE AT YOUR LOCAL LIBRARY OR BOOK SELLER.