VIII

SEQUEL TO THE MOVEMENT

Such feats of indomitable spirit, patriotic fervour and manifold sacrifices of the Babbar Akalis had created an aura of reverence. No doubt, the movement was crippled and it began to fade out but the government had failed to wipe out the Babbar Akalis from existence. The Babbar Akalis continued to operate, for a considerable long time, even after 1927.

The people and the parties were irresistibly drawn towards the Babbar Akalis. They had evoked sympathy from all quarters. The 'Babbar Sher' was the first to appeal to the Central Sikh League to create a fund to help the families of the Babbar Akalis and raise a memorial, thereof. The Jhabali party organised a diwan at Bolina in memory of the Babbar heroes. The Sikh League appealed for Rs. 1,25,000 for the 'Desh Bhagat Qaidi Parwar Sahai Fund' in its session on April 3rd, 1926 at Lahore and viewed the Babbar executions.

1. The Babbar Sher, Amritsar, March 15, 1926.

2. Home-Political, Proceedings, File No.113/IV/1926. It was a group of the Akalis led by three brothers, namely S. Anar Singh, S. Sarmukh Singh and S. Jarnaut Singh of village Jhabal, District Amritsar.
with horrors. The 'Kirti' gave wide publicity to an appeal, for the funds, made by Kartar Singh of Latala, Secretary Desh Bhagat Parwar Sahaiik Committee. The 'Akali-Te Pardesi', the 'Kirpan Bahadur' of March 4, 1926, the 'Qaumi Dard' and the 'Zamindar' of March 5, 1926, and the 'Desh Sewak' of March 11, 1926 and various other periodicals not only condemned the government action in executing the Babbar Akalis but also eulogized their selflessness and patriotism. Various Sikh Organisations in Canada and the U.S.A. also adopted resolutions of sympathy. The Canadian and American Press Society generously contributed to the Desh Bhagat Jadi Parwar Sahaiik Fund.

In fact the Babbar Movement was charismatic. The contemporaries kept the Babbar torch lit by celebrating 'the Babbar day'. In 1928, Balwant Singh Dukhiya of village Bains, Arjan Singh 'Sach' of village Kharsaudi and Master Kabul Singh of Gobindpur underwent 3 years' imprisonment for the offence of celebrating the Babbar day. Master Mota Singh, who was released

3. Loc. cit.
4. The Kirti, Amritsar, July 20, 1926.
7. Makhsuspuri, 8.8., Babbar Akali Lehar, op. cit., p. 299.
on June 23, 1929, was sore at the short-sighted and weak-kneed policy of the Akalis which added to the Babbar difficulties. He praised the Babbar heroism without reservation. He convened a conference of the Babbar in 1938 in Gurdwara Bandagarh. All the Babbar who had undergone jail terms for the national cause were given 'saropas' there. During 1936-40 a 'Babbar Bahadur Shahidi Bunga' was also built under the supervision of Sant Hari Singh Saharpuri and the contributions were generally given by the American and Canadian Sikhs.

But the Babbar story will be incomplete if the exploits of the Babbar during late twenties and thirties are not enumerated. They form an important segment of the Babbar saga. Sadhu Singh of Sandhara's exploits are singularly unique and deserve top priority in order of chronology. He was himself involved in the Babbar conspiracy case, supplementary II i.e. crown v/s Nikka Singh and others but he was acquitted in 1927. He was cut to the quick when he learnt that the wife of Surai Singh of Daulatpur, and the widow of Banta Singh of Dhamian.

9. *The Gurdwara was in Master Mota Singh's village, Patara*, vide Interview of Kartar Singh of Pindori Bijjaran to the writer, on 9th September, 1983.
12. He was killed at Munder on 12 December, 1923.
had been kidnapped by Jagat Singh of Kathiana and Sucha Singh of Sandharval, respectively. Sadhu Singh felt agonised at the disgraceful acts of depraved men and women. He, with the help of Bishana and Mehnga from Susan, first, murdered Jawala Singh of Kathian, who had falsely implicated him in a case at the instance of Sub-Inspector Aga Khan of Bosharpur. Then he decided to do away with the despicable Jagat Singh and others. He said 'ardasa' in a Gurudwara and murdered Jagat Singh, his cousin, a vamp, Banta Singh's widow and Lambardar of the village. He also did away with Sucha Singh of Sandharval along with Banta Singh Dhamian's widow who was living with him. He also murdered a toady captain for his nefarious activities. S. Sadhu Singh of Sandhara was arrested with the connivance of Labh Singh and Bhan Singh of Randhawa Masandan (Jullundur) in complicity with their brother-in-law Bhola Singh of Haripur who lived in Bar area. Labh Singh and Bhan Singh became approvers and divulged the facts about the murders of Jagat Singh, Sucha Singh and others in the court. Sadhu Singh was aware that they did not know about the murder of Jawala Singh Kathian. So, when the evidences in this case were over, he managed to call one Sadhu Singh, who had become a mendicant, and told him about the place where the corpse of Jawala Singh lay buried. He also persuaded him to give evidence to the fact that Labh Singh, Bhan Singh and

14. Makhsuspuri, Sunder Singh Babbar Akali Lehar, op.cit., p.30%.
Sadhhu Singh of Sandhara had murdered Jawala Singh. As a result, Labh Singh and Bhan Singh were also implicated in the murder of Jawala Singh and they could not escape as approvers. They, along with Sadhu Singh were also sent to the scaffold on May 16, 1931.¹⁵

Rattan Singh Bakkar’s exploits are also notable and deserve special mention. He was inspired by Karam Singh of Daulatpur. He, too, like him, began to collect arms but his efforts were foiled by a toady, named, Sikandar of Mahatpur who got him arrested. He was sentenced to 5 years’ imprisonment under illicit Arms Act. During the Babbar Akali movement he could not play any part. When he was released he again began to manufacture bombs and also hurled some bombs on the police stations of Gharshankar and Balachaur.¹⁶ Consequently, he was arrested and was sentenced to 20 years’ term of imprisonment in 1931. He escaped from police custody, on April 23, 1932 with ten other prisoners, after attacking the escort party in the train at Narwana, a railway station, near Bhatinda.¹⁷

The Head constable, incharge of the police party was killed.

¹⁵. Labh Singh, Sankhen Tawarikh Babbar Akali, op.cit., p.144. But Milaka Singh of Pindori Nijjran, in his interview with the writer on 16th November, 1983 and Buta Singh, Babbar Akali Tehrik (MSK), p.350 hold only Shola Singh responsible for his arrest and do not agree with Labh Singh that Labh Singh and Bhan Singh were his accomplices.


¹⁷. Harbhajan Singh, Bharati Shahiden Dian Laboo Bhijian Yadan, op.cit., p.86.
on the spot. Then ensued a grim struggle of hide and seek attended with nightmarish experiences. In 11 days after covering a distance of 140 miles he reached his village, Rakkar. To avoid police net he moved from place to place. He was surrounded in Jamalpur village, on April 26, 1932. Then, he took shelter in a Gurdwara near Gurney Station after wounding a person who was chasing him. On May 7, 1932 he was seen near Kum, District Ludhiana. The government announced a reward of Rs. 3,000/- for his arrest, subsequently increased to Rs. 10,000/- and 10 squares of land. The lure of the reward, turned his relatives into police informers. A son-in-law of his paternal aunt, with whom he was staying in Rurki Sainian, now called Rurki Khas, became an informer. He deprived him of the ammunition and also informed the police. A large contingent of policemen besieged the village. He took shelter in the house of Ganda Singh which was immediately put on fire. Rattan Singh exchanged fire. He shot

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21. Vive Home-Political, File No., 48/3/1933, p. 101-102, containing Parsang Rattan Singh Fakarawala mentioned that Rattan Singh was betrayed by his friend, Mihan. The account highlights the aim of the Bebarr. He tells his sister (an imaginary dialogue) that: ‘I have taken up the sword of Dharama... I did not plunder anybody... My jatha was doing a righteous deed... I am the brave lion of the Jats, I will suffer hardships to make the world a happier place to live in.’
dead three policemen including Head-Constable Abdul Fahim and constables - Bhagat Singh and Udham Singh. One Hazara Singh of Attar Singh of the village was also killed. Fatteh Singh, himself, was also mortally wounded. Death to the Babbar was more honourable than surrender. He fell a martyr to the cause on 15th July, 1932. Isher Singh, Genda Singh and Pratam Singh were arrested by the police for the offence of giving shelter to Fatteh Singh and they were awarded 3 years' term of imprisonment, each. A punitive fine of Rs. 3000/- was imposed on the villagers. Even the pensions of the pensioners of the villagers were also forfeited.  

The memorable development as a sequel to the movement was the ceaseless efforts to do away with the notorious toadies and traitors with perfect acumen and secrecy. Bela Singh of Zian, who had left Vancouver after murdering and betraying his co-religionists, was hacked to death in his house on December 8, 1933. He was done to death by Hari Singh of Jundh, Sant Inder Singh of Murari and Isher Singh of Jandoli and thus they carried out the decision, taken in a meeting of the Babbar revolutionaries held at Anandpur Sahib in 1932. They escaped by boarding a train to Amritsar from Phagwara. The case was registered against Hari Singh, Ishar Singh and Bakhshish Singh of Chabbewal but for want of an eye-witness, they were acquitted.

23. Makhanspuri, E.S., Babbar Akali Lehra, op. cit., p.303.
A defence committee comprising Arjan Singh 'Sach', Dasaundha Singh, Harnam Singh and Ram Singh 'Jauhar', had fought their case successfully. Thus, by killing a brash-faced traitor, they were able to settle their scores with the stooges and traitors.

The next to be put to death was Anup Singh of Manko. He was the person who played treachery with the Babbar and got them killed at Babeli on September 1, 1923. In March, 1936, a meeting of the revolutionaries was held at Anandpur Sahib and they took a vow to kill Anup Singh. The meeting, besides others, was attended by Kartar Singh of Chak Bagarian, Ujjagar Singh of Pannahali, Isher Singh of Jandoli, Sant Inder Singh of Murari, Mehar Singh of Kotli Lehal and Bhagat Singh of Lyallpur. Ujjagar Singh was asked to accomplish the deed. He took, Kartar Singh of Chak Bagarian and Gurdit Singh of Mandhali, alongwith him. It was Kartar Singh of Doweli who had incited them to murder the wretch. They shot Anup Singh and his son dead on June 21, 1936 in his house. The police were able to trace the murders and succeeded in arresting Gurdit Singh, Kartar Singh and Ujjagar Singh. In this case, Kartar Singh and Gurdit Singh were sentenced to death and sent to the gallows on 10th August, 1938, while Ujjagar Singh was acquitted.

29. The Navan Zaman, July 27, 1980. Also vide the Dash Pardi, contd...
Karan Singh of Mannanhana, who in complicity with Javala Singh of, Zian brother of Bala Singh of Zian, was responsible for the death of valiant Dhanna Singh of Behbalpur was murdered by the two fugitives from Kapurthala army, namely, Bachint of Dhandoli, Tehsil Phagwara and Ajaib Singh of Dakha (Ludhiana). They were prompted by some Babbar sympathiser to murder Karan Singh because he was an eyesore to the Babbars due to his perfidy as well as braggadiscm. They murdered him on March 25, 1940. He was murdered near the limits of village Kangraur and was thrown into a 'choe' flowing nearby. Later on, they also killed Nula Singh of Flahi (a Babbar case accused no. 71, who had undergone 5 years' imprisonment) for the attempt to get them arrested. Bachint Singh fell a prey, later on, to the machinations of his relatives. His wife and her uncle got him arrested from Pindori Ganga Singh where he was married. He was awarded death sentence whereas Ajaib Singh could not be arrested. This brave fellow avenged his friend's arrest by murdering Sibo, Bachint Singh's widow, her uncle Bir Singh and cousin Samund Singh in their village, Lakhpur. Ajaib Singh was, later on, killed in an encounter with the police.

29 contd...

June 29, 1936. Also see, Labh Singh, Sankhop Tavrikh Babbar Akali, op. cit., p. 118. Massafir, Gurnam Singh, Yahrin Gaddi De Shaheed, op. cit., p. 134, is not correct in mentioning that Anup Singh was shot dead by them on June 18, 1930.

The stray murders of some of the other toadies were also committed during this period. Sikandar of Mehatpur was killed in December, 1942 by a Babbar. 31 It was he who had created difficulties for Rattan Singh of Bakkar. In January, 1943 Ram Singh of Musara Kalan approver No. 12 of the Babbar case was also grievously assaulted as he was vain enough to call himself a Babbar. 32 This happened in the village of Bachauri where he had gone to attend a marriage. He was attacked by Niranjan Singh and Udham Singh, son and nephew of Dalip Singh of Sadhara. Ralla Singh of Dishkot Manao, responsible for the death of Waryam Singh of Dhugga in Lyallpur was also murdered during this period. Some of the other traitors were also done to death. Kartar Singh Babbar of Pindori Nijjran stated that he killed Ajit Singh Dhada, who was a friend of the family. Ajit Singh Dhada was a police agent. He got Amer Singh of Kot Barre Khan arrested and this caused incalculable harm to the movement. Kartar Singh also claimed to have persuaded Karam Singh Mahal, a descut, to kill Jamadar Gurdit Singh of Burre Berrian. Kartar Singh was an employee of Khaddar Bhagir Centre, Mahalpur, when he got it accomplished. He was ostensibly a Gandhian, but in fact, he pursued the Babbar line zealously. 33

31. Ibid., p. 118.
32. Gurbashan Singh, Babbar Akali, op. cit. p. 76.
The saga of the Babbar heroism and sacrifices will be incomplete without the narration of the Malwa Babbar Akali Jatha which tried to seek vengeance by eliminating the atrocious S.Q.M. Beaty and butcherly Sir Michael O'Dwyer, responsible for the excesses during the Guru Ka Bagh massacre and Jallianwala Bagh Massacre, respectively.\(^{34}\)

Babu Sant Singh was responsible for organising a group of the Akalis in the Malwa region of the Panjab but his sudden arrest threw cold water on their plans. The first to come into contact with him was S. Kartar Singh of Jaspalon, District Ludhiana.\(^{35}\) He was an ex-Ghadrite. The Babbars of the Malwa, too, believed in violence and worked actively, transcending group affiliations. They had connection with the Riasati Paris Mandal, the Akali Dal and other revolutionary groups and were in sympathy with all those who were opposed to the British rule. Their programme included preparation of arms and for this factories were to be opened. They worked in complete secrecy. Each member was asked to bring two more dependable members. None was allowed to ask other’s name. The suspected member was to be shot dead, instantaneously. This group started its activities in 1929. The important members of this group were Kartar Singh of Jaspalon, Kartar Singh of Sekha, Wazir Singh of Asarpur, Wazakha Singh, Malwa Ithas, Vol.XII, op.cit., p.983.

\(^{34}\) Mahar Singh, Agadi Dian Lehran, op.cit., p.336.
Mranjan Singh of Solakhian, Baba Budh Singh of Mangal and Mann Singh of Barri Tibba, District Sangrur. Kartar Singh of Jaspalon was elected Jathedar of the group in a meeting held in the Gurdwara of village Sekha in 1930.36 Mann Singh Barri demonstrated his skill of manufacturing bombs, etc. Soon, they started manufacturing arms in the factories set up in the villages of Bagra, Rabbon, Kudhani and Ghaliot where they, also, held meetings to discuss the future course and action.37 In one of the meetings, Sahib Singh Salama and Chaudhri Sherjanj of Ahmedgarh dacoity fame, too, had taken part,38 despite the fact they were connected with the Naujawan Bharat Sabha.39

While the Babbars were busy in their programme, Charan Singh Kakar, Harmam Singh Chamak, Chaudhari Sher Jang and Sahib Singh of Salana Committed a dacoity at Ahmedgarh Station on October 15, 1929 and tried, unsuccessfully, to loot the government treasury being carried in the train.40 They were immediately arrested. The Babbars planned to secure their release. Wasir Singh of Asarpur and Miranjan Singh of Solakhian were sent to bring Bhajan Singh driver from Mangewal in this connection, but they were arrested by a force of the Payal Police station.

36. Ibid., p.1001.
38. Wasakha Singh Malwa Ithas, Vol.III, op.cit.,pp.983 and 1012. The author asserts that Babbar Mann Singh of Barri disclosed this in his statement that Sahib Singh of Salana and Chaudhri Sher Jang had actually participated in a meeting at Sekha.
39. Ibid., p.1013. Sahib Singh Salama stated this in his interview with Sant Wasakha Singh.
40. Govt.of India, TERRORISM IN INDIA, op.cit., p.77.
Kartar Singh of Jaspalon, on sensing that their plan had gone awry, at once removed the arms from the factories where these were being manufactured. Master Kartar Singh of Sekha was arrested. Kartar Singh of Jaspalon and Mann Singh of Barri absconded. The Panjab Government announced a reward of ₹1100/- and a square of land for the apprehension of Kartar Singh Jaspalon whereas a reward of ₹1000/- and 700/- was proclaimed for Mann Singh Barri’s arrest by Ludhiana and Patiala authorities respectively.¹¹

Thus it deflected their whole programme. Mann Singh of Barri was pursued by the police in the villages of Alipur, Mallo Majra, Dhadegal, Begowal, Nangal (near Dehlon) and Nakerna. He, ultimately, left for Bikaner to escape from the police witch-hunt. Kartar Singh of Jaspalon also left for Bikaner. Mann Singh came back in 1934 and was arrested at Abadial, near Badhladha.

This group did not produce any tangible results, but its underground activities brought another group into being which included Kartar Singh of Chhiniwal, Bhola Singh of Loha Khera, Fasla of Ghumanwala. Santa Singh of Barri Tibba, Ghuman Singh Mistri, Sawan Singh of Tibba and Udham Singh of Sunam¹².

⁴² Ibid., p.984.
The party in one of its meetings assigned duties to murder the enemies of the 'Panth' and the country. Udham Singh of Sunam was entrusted with the task of murdering O'Dwyer. His brother Mukta Singh nee Sadhu Singh was killed at Jallianwala Bagh on April 13, 1919. Since then, the fire of revenge had burnt within him. He went to the U.S.A. in 1924 but returned to India soon and was arrested and put in prison on August 30, 1927. Three pistols and 400 cartridges were recovered from him. He was imprisoned for 5 years. After his release he came into contact with the Babbar and the members of Yug Paltao Dal of Amar Singh Tegh and Arjan Singh Gargaj. This party was carrying out the programme of murdering the toadies. He met them on 17th May, 1932 in Sri Nagar and the programme to murder O'Dwyer was once again considered. Udham Singh left immediately for London on a fictitious passport. He waited there for more than 6 years. It was on March 13, 1940 when Sir Michael O'Dwyer who was taking part in a discussion on Afghanistan at Caxton Hall, London, was shot dead. He was sentenced to death on 13th June, 1940 but was sent to the gallows on July 31, 1940. He thus avenged the national insult. His action owed inspiration to the Babbar and various other groups which indirectly owed their genesis to the Babbar Akali movement.

44. Wasakha Singh, Malwa Itnas, Volume III, op. cit., p. 985. It was not General Dyer but Sir Michael O'Dwyer, who was to be his target. Dyer had died already on July 23, 1926. Wasakha Singh seems to be confused about the identity of the General and the Governor.


46. Bhajan Singh, Saade Shahid, p. 315. and Wasakha Singh, contd...
When Udham Singh was entrusted with the task of murdering O'Dwyer, Kartar Singh of Chhinival, Bholo Singh and Fazala were directed to murder S.G.M. Beaty. Their programme misfired due to the arrest of Kartar Singh of Chhinival after an encounter with a police party of Malerkota headed by Atta-Ullah-Khan. In jail he came into contact with Kundha Singh of Ghasiana and Bachan Singh of Loha Khera. They showed interest in his programme of murdering S.G.M. Beaty and they readily agreed to do whatever they could to accomplish it. They managed to escape from jail. Soon they were joined by Bholo Singh of Loha Khera, Fazla of Chhuwanwala and Kaka of Chatha Sekhvwan. They met Sant Ujjagar Singh of Bero Kalan, District Bhatinda who advised them to do away with the tyrant.

S.G.M. Beaty lived at his farm in Chatha Sekhvwan. He was paramour of a beautiful woman of loose character named Harnami. She had poisoned her husband Sucha Singh and thus got rid of him. Her brother-in-law Kaka was incensed at her deeds. She lived with Mr. Beaty as his keep.

The decision to reform Mr. Beaty was arrived at on the persuasion of Sant Ujjagar Singh who arranged police uniforms for them. All except Kaka donned the uniforms. Kundha Singh became Sub-Inspector while Bholo Singh and Bachan Singh dressed themselves as Head Constables. All others wore the uniforms of

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46 contd:


47. Vide the Hoka, May-June, 1975, Hansa, p.25.

48. Chatha-Sekhvwan is near Sunamata distance of 4 miles only. It is also called Chatha Opali. Chatha and Opali are two separate villages.
the police constables.\textsuperscript{49}

Kartar Singh of Chhiniwal thought of a clever device. He handcuffed Kaka and took him to Beaty's farm. They drubbed Kaka as a culprit. They brought him before Beaty who was sitting in a chair and asked him to seek his mercy. Kaka fell on Beaty's feet, caught hold of his legs and knocked him down. Their ruse had worked. They immediately murdered him in the broadday light on May 27, 1940,\textsuperscript{50} and thus avenged Guru Ka Bagh atrocities.\textsuperscript{51}

The murder was immediately reported to the Thanesar of Sunam, Munsha Singh Ahluwalia and Superintendent of Police S. Bhagwan Singh. Kaka's brother, Bachan Singh, was arrested by the police who had no connection with the murder.

Kunda Singh of Ghasiana, Fazla of Ghumanwala and Kaka of Chatha Sekhwan were killed in an encounter with the police. Bachan Singh of Loha Khera\textsuperscript{52} was arrested, tried and sent to the scaffold.\textsuperscript{53} Kartar Singh of Chhiniwal and Bhola Singh of

\textsuperscript{49} The \textit{Hoka}, op.cit., p.25.
\textsuperscript{50} Ibid., p.27. It is a strange coincidence that the two of the most cruel British officers, who terrorised the Panjabis and insulted the Sikhs, met their end at the hands of the Babars of Malwa in 1940.
\textsuperscript{52} Loha Khera is near Longoval, District Sangrur. Dr. Kamlesh Mohan in her Ph.D. Thesis, \textit{Militant Nationalism in the Panjab, 1919-35}, has confused it with Lohar Khera, District Jullundur.
Loha Khera were arrested. They were, however, acquitted in this case but were implicated in the cases of robberies and were sentenced to long terms of imprisonment. Even in the jails of Independent India they were undergoing imprisonment. Patriotism was their crime. 54

It was due to the intercession of Sardar Partap Singh Kairon that Kartar Singh Chhiniwal was not only released from Ludhiana jail but a pension was also granted to him. 55

E. Harbans Singh of Sirhala Khurad, accused No. 94 of the Main Babbar Case tried to organise old Babbars into a "Yug Paltau Dal" during world war II. They assembled in a Gurdwara at Hoshiarpur. 56 Some of them, like Harbans Singh of Sirhala, Ujjagar Singh of Dhamian, Dharam Singh s/o Banta Singh of Dhamian, Bhola Singh, elder brother of Banta Singh, Bhola Singh of Kathe Adhkare, Kartar Singh of Gondpur, Sunder Singh of Makhsuspur, Buta Singh of Pindori Hijjaran, Basara Singh of Munder, Bachint Singh of Dumunda, Ujjagar Singh of Bisrampur, Master Dalip Singh of Gossai, Surain Singh of Daulatpur and Thakar Singh of Bharta had suffered imprisonment during the

Babbar Akali Movement. There were new members also, who joined the ranks of Yug Paltalu Dal. They included Shamsher Singh of Moranwali, Nirmal Singh of Sarinh, Baba Ganda Singh of Sirhala Kalan, Waryam Singh of Sarinh, Chhaja Singh of Khaihra Majha (Kapurthala) and Ram Singh of Raipur Dal (Jullundur). Some of the Sikh soldiers of Jhansi Regiment had also deserted. Thirty five of them were arrested, while Labh Singh of Aklot (Una), Sadhu Singh of Manak Dheri (Hoshiarpur) and Arjan Singh of Dholamwala (Hoshiarpur) successfully escaped and joined the Yug Paltalu Dal.

On the third day after the Diwalli in 1940, Harbans Singh of Sirhala Khurad, Master Ujjagar Singh of Dhamian, Piara Singh of Dhamian, Bholo Singh of Kathe Adhkare, Nirmal Singh of Sarinh, Baba Ganda Singh Singh, Sadhu Singh of Manak Dheri, Labh Singh of Aklot, Dharam Singh of Dhamian and Ujjagar Singh assembled at Kiratpur and decided to do away with a toady, Mela Singh pujari. He, however, escaped unhurt while his servant was killed. The party, then, proceeded to Jassowal and

57. Loc.cit., Also vide, Buta Singh, Babbar Akali Tehrik (MSS.), p.364. Milkha Singh includes Sunder Singh Wakhnsuri and Buta Singh of Pindori Nijjaran in the group. But neither Sunder Singh mentioned it in his book, Babbar Akali Lehar nor Buta Singh lent any weight to it. Buta Singh told the present writer in an interview on 20.11.85 that he was approached by Harbans Singh of Sirhala but his ideas had changed then. Bachint Singh Dumunda had also declined to join 'the Yug Paltalu Dal'.

60. Ibid., p.364.
61. Loc.cit.
stayed with Harbaksh Singh. The ease was registered against Harbans Singh, Ujjagar Singh of Dhamian, Genda Singh, Nirmal Singh of Sarinh and Shams her Singh of Moranwali. Others escaped but Shamsher Singh was arrested from his village. He knew nothing about this murder. Despite his innocence he was sentenced to death and executed.

In March, 1941, Harbans Singh, Ujjagar Singh, Nirmal Singh and Master Ram Singh met Udhamp Singh of Nagoke and Sohan Singh of Jalal-Usmann and decided to bring out "Yug Palta Akhbar". With their encouragement, they started its publication in April, 1941. Arjan Singh, Sadhu Singh, Labh Singh, Chhaja Singh and Waryam Singh were attacked by the people near Bhogpur when they had gone to reform a toady. Chhaja Singh was killed in the skirmish.

In September, 1941, Bhola Singh of Katha Adhkare was arrested from Bhang Chiri, District Ferozepur. He confessed his involvement in the Kiratpur murder and Kalka shooting. The incharge of this case was Sayyad Ahmad Shah who had been previously the incharge of the Babbar Akali conspiracy case, Supplementary II. It was he who prevailed upon him to make a confession. As a result, C.I.D. was able to conclude that Yug Palta Dal and Meerut Kirti Party were accomplices. In December, 1941 a meeting of

62. Ibid., p.377.
63. Ibid., p.380.
the top-ranking officers took place and immediate crackdown, upon the members of the Dal, was decided. Sant Parkash Singh of Alavalpur, who was S.P. of Lyallpur, sent a message to the Babbaras through Amar Singh of Dosanjh to escape from the Majha. While Labh Singh, Arjan Singh and Sadhu Singh and three army fugitives made good their escape, others like Harbans Singh, Mirmal Singh and Genda Singh remained in the Majha. C.I.D. was able to enter their inner circle through Tara Singh of Pangota. On January 10, 1943, they were arrested from Jawa Rai, District Lahore, through Tara Singh’s perfidy. On June 20, 1943, the police was also able to arrest Hazar Singh of Pheruman from Darbar Sahib, Taran Taran. Ram Singh, a disciple of Sant Hari Singh Kaharpuri was also arrested from Bhagtanwala railway station, while he was going to Amritsar from Tarn Taran. Piara Singh of Dhanian was arrested from Gurdwara Baba Ker Sahib (West Panjab) and was interned in Lyallpur under Defence of India Act. Ujjagar Singh of Dhanian was killed in an encounter with the police.

Harbans Singh of Sirhala Khurada, Baba/Singh of Sirhala Kalan and Mirmal Singh of Sarinh (Jullundur) were tried for their involvement in Kiratpur murder case by the Sessions

64. Ibid., pp. 381-85.


66. Harbans Singh was the Manager of Gurdwara Committee, Kiratpur.
Judge of Hoshiarpur who sentenced Harbans Singh to death while others were acquitted. Harbans Singh was sent to the gallows on April 3, 1944 in Ludhiana jail after his appeal was rejected by the High Court. It was a befitting epilogue to the revolutionary movement started by the Babbar Akalis. The Babbars, soon after, murdered Tara Singh of Pangota as well.

The contention, that the Babbars of the Forties carried the tradition of the Babbar Akalis of Twenties, has been corroborated in a poem written by F. Harbans Singh of Sirhala Khurd himself. The insignia of the Babbar during the latter period was a ferocious 'Lion' (Babbar Sher). In the poem, the Babbar was exhorted to unfurl the National Flag high and he was asked to terrify the Feringhees. In the poem, the Babbar was urged to extirpate the toadies, as under:

Babbar Sher, uth Dalera
Khauf Feringhees Tain Panda ja.
Jhul jhul ce Kaumi Jhande,
Jhul Jhul Shan Wadhanda ja.
Jholichuk Lumbar Gidder,
Chun Chun Mar Mukanda ji.

67. Nirmal Singh Sarin and Baba Genda Singh were acquitted. Nirmal Singh was killed on March 9, 1947 alongwith Babu Labh Singh in Jullundur when a mob, incited by the Muslim League, attacked them.

68. Sarhadi, Kartar Singh, Singh Sabha Lehar Da Sunehri To Maban Purupkari Ithas, Yamuna Nagar, 1917, p.470.
Thus their motives and means during the entire period were the same. They aimed to overthrow the British rules by violent means and almost all the notorious toadies, who helped the Britishers in their designs, were exterminated by them. No doubt the movement faded in the end but it left a proud record of selfless sacrifices of which any community can feel proud of.