CHAPTER VIII
QUIT INDIA MOVEMENT AND INDEPENDENCE.

Quit India Resolution.

The British government was shocked by the decision of Gandhi to offer individual Satyagraha to condemn British action on treating India as party of the ‘allies’ in the war. The success of the movement made the British to offer something and pacify the Indians. Therefore, the British government sent Cripp’s Mission on 23-3-1942 to examine the political problem in India and thereby to suggest remedial measures in order to secure the unconditional support of India to the cause of Allies in the war. The Cripp’s Mission failed to satisfy Indians demand. His proposals denied granting the Responsible Government to Indians under one union consisting of Hindu-Muslims. His proposals aimed to strengthen communal forces and encouraged the formation of two unions, thus paving the way to support the two-nation theory of M. A. Jinnah.¹

The historical development therefore, compelled I.N.C. not to co-operate with the British in war efforts. There were prolonged negotiations between the congress and the government on April 10th 1942. Gandhi wanted Indians to shed all fear and fight for the liberation of motherland. The A.I.CC met in Bombay at ‘Kranti Maidan’ on 8th August 1942. Under the instructions of Gandhi, Congress passed ‘Quit India’ resolution and called upon the people to rebel openly against British Administration. Gandhiji called upon every Satyagrahi to recite the mantra of ‘Do or Die’.²

The government did not sit Idle when the Quit India Movement call was given. It made an elaborate preparation to nip any political activity of the Indians in the bud. Before the day August 9, 1942 dawned, the police arrested Mahatma Gandhi, Abul Kalam Azad, Pandit Nehru Vallabhbhai Patel, Rajendra Prasad, J.B. Kripalani, Aruna Asaf Ali and other congress leader.
Gandhi was taken to Agha Khan palace in Pune. Pandit Nehru was detained at Ahmednagar Fort and all the leaders in different states were arrested on the way before they reach their destination after attending the Bombay congress session. The outstanding leaders of Karnataka such as T.Subramanya, S.Nijalingappa, R.R.Diwakar, Kaujalgi, Mylar Mahadevappa, Venkatesh Magadi, Yeluige, Mamle Desai, Dr.Tegginmath and others were arrested on 10-8-1942 while they were returning from Bombay session.³

The news of the mass arrest spread like forest fire throughout the country. The people were aghast at the situation India for a long time had controlled her military spirit of the people and now it was let loose by Gandhi. The scope and methods of the struggle here not defined. He permitted the people to take things to their hands completely to paralyze the British Administration without causing violence to person and to the personal property. The war was to be waged in defiance of government activity by attacking on seats of power and dislocation of communication. Quit India Movement in this respect became the leaderless movement in the country in general and Dharwad dist in particular. The groups of Satyagrahis themselves formulated guidelines to guide the destiny of this last war of independence to the success and sacrificed all their pleasure for the great cause of freedom. Movement in the district gathered strength day by day. Public life was paralyzed and business activities were suspended. In response to Gandhiji’s call to ‘Do or Die’ for the nation, Satyagrahis caused lot of disturbances and posed obnoxious obstructions to the police and government machinery. By and large congress workers, labours, students, lawyers, women patriots and peasants participated in this historic struggle for the noble cause of Swaraj. They held demonstrations, protest meetings, disrupted the channels of communications, cut railway and road lines and picketed liquor shops.
The Satygrahis particularly peasants continued the No -Tax Campaign during Quit India Movement and raised the slogan ‘No Taxation without Representation’.⁴

In obedience to the resolution of the working committee of K.P.C.C., which met at Dharwad on 14th August 1942, all taluka wings of congress were tuned up for the success of Quit India Movement. The banned Newspapers and Journals published day-to-day happenings underground to incite Satyagrahis to break all types of administrative machinery.⁵

The Spontaneous upsurge.

Processions, Hartals and Protest Meetings in Bombay Karnataka.

In Dharwad District.

On 9th August 1942 at Dharwad, despite it being a Sunday, students organized a procession. When the police tried to stop it, they squatted on the roads under scorching sun, chanting “Ram Dhun”. The collector intervened and permitted the procession to proceed. At Hubli N.S.Hardikar, D.C.C. secretary Devpure, T.C.C. President Sayyadsab Bandar, R.V.Karegudri and Virakatamath were arrested. On the same day Ananth Rao Jalihal and Dr. Huyilgol were arrested at Gadag. The K.P.C.C. head quarter at Dharwad was searched and taken into the possession of police custody. High school students at Hubli organized Hartal.⁶

Thousands of People offered Satyagraha under the leadership of Gangappa Ichgeri and shouted the slogans “Bharat Mata Ki Jai, Vande Mataram, Mahatma Gandhi Ki Jai”. Standing on a podium, Gangappa Ichgeri started speaking and said “British ko Madath Karna Haram Hai” (co-operating the British is illegal). Police Lathi charged and flogged many patriots. Many people were wounded but the Hartal went on till the evening and scared assistant Superintendent of Police ordered firings in which two boys were hurt by the shots of bullet. Narayan Govind Doni of 14 years received injury in chest and Ishwar Katkar who received injury on legs were taken to hospital. Narayan Govind Doni died on the same day and became first martyr of the Quit India
movement and Ishwar lost one of his legs and became a permanent handicap. Procession and *Prabhat Pheris* were order of the day to infuse new blood in the viens of nationalists.

On 10\(^{th}\) Aug 1942, *Hartal* was observed at Dharwad and a public meeting amidst heavy rains, was addressed by Dr. Kabbur. He was later arrested under section 19 of Bombay police Act. Andanappa Dodmeti (Jakkali, Dharwad district), Basappa Argavi (Nandgad), Keshavrao Gokhale (Belgaum), T.S. Nayak (Kumta) organised *Hartals* and courted arrest. There was procession and protest meeting at Gadag on 11\(^{th}\) also.

On 13\(^{th}\) Gadag town observed Hartal and M. Haridas Rao and Alaboor who spoke at the public meeting were arrested. After procession that marched towards the Municipal and Vidyadhan School, students boycotted the schools and took part in the hartal.

Day by day, the movement was spreading to urban and rural areas. News supplied by “registered” correspondents alone could be published. There was a virtual censorship. Owing to this, correspondents were not sending news from remote towns and villages, and the Home Department too could not report all activities from all places to the state capital. The Bombay secret Abstract of Police Department for 1942 in Para 783 states as follows:

The week under review witnessed an almost unprecedented series of disturbances following the resolution adopted by All–India Congress Committee at Bombay”. The report includes among the eight disturbed districts of Bombay Province, Belgaum and Dharwad as well. But till then, the movement had been peaceful, in the sense that except breaking prohibitory orders, no other form of breaking of law was to be evidenced. With the arrest of responsible leaders, most of them staunch and disciplined Gandhians, and the leadership falling into the hands of a set of absolutely new workers, the movements ceased to be peaceful. The first scenes of popular enthusiasm and anger against the government taking a not so peaceful a form
like throwing of stones at the police and buildings and attacking public property had started. The Government itself gave green signal to such an activity, though unwittingly, what Congress perhaps, due to its difficulties, could not publicize fully, was provided full publicity by the government itself. This was when the Secretary of State for India, L.S. Amery made a statement on August 12 in the British Parliament that the Congress programme included general strike in Industry and trade, paralyzing the administration and courts, cutting telegraph and telephone wires and closing army recruitment centers. “The revolutionary speech by the neo nationalist leaders triggered the revolution”.10

The editorial of Samyuktha Karnataka states that in Hubli, processions were organized on the 12th and the 13th, Gubbannavar, the youth leader and others were arrested.11 Hartal was observed at Banahatti, in Gadag, at Morab, Hanagal, Gajendragadh, Tirthanahalli, and many other places, to protest against the arrest of Sakri.12

First incidents of sabotage were reported on the 13th night itself. Telegraph wires were cut near Pachapur between the Gokak Suldhal railway stations. The Bangalore-Pune mail was delayed by two hours. Similarly Dharwad–Belgaum telegraph line was cut near Bagewadi. The Sankeshwar–Nippani line was also similarly cut.13 On the 14th there was a huge Procession at Hubli, which started from the Lamington High School. At the Saraf Katta, the police snatched the tri-colour flags from the hands of some processionists. The organizers of this procession, refused to move forward. They demanded the police to return the national flags, which represented the sovereignty of people of India. Only after the return of the confiscated flags by the police did the procession proceed and dispersed peacefully.14 The students of the Karnataka College took a procession up to the Karnataka High school at Dharwad and they dispersed peacefully. Four student leaders came to be arrested. As processions were being held despite a
ban on them, the authorities requested the public to co-operate with them to stop the processions and help administration in maintaining law and order. Nobody attended the college though it was re–opened after closure for three days. Gadag observed Hartal on the 14th. Gurunatha Solanki, Banahalli and Kumara Swami Hiremath were arrested for delivering lectures on British exploitation policy. A Procession was also organised at Nargund on the 14th and five persons were arrested.

The first three days of the movement in Karnataka that followed the arrest of Mahatma Gandhi and other leaders saw peaceful expression of mobfury in the form of strikes, Hartals, processions and public meetings with stray incidents of stone throwing and minor sabotage. What followed from the 15th August 1942 was open eruption, pent–up anger. There was spontaneous overflow of suppressed fury when the news of the death in jail of Mahadevbhai Desai, the assistant of Mahatma Gandhi on the morning of 15th.

The news of Mahadeva Desai’s death spread all over the country (on 15-5-1942) through the ‘Congress Radio’ and by nationalist newspapers. The military and the police were posted to guard and if necessary to take retaliatory measures in all major towns and cities to quell the nationalist activities. Unprecedented scenes of mobfury, resulting in the police resorting to Lathi charge and firing, causing injury and deaths followed from the 15th of August.

In Bijapur District.

The Quit India Movement had its impact on Indian soldiers working under the British, Parasurama Hanumantha jadhav of Honnur was serving in the army, but inspired by the speeches of Gandhi and Subhas Chandra Bose, resigned and joined Azad Fauj on 20.6.1942, and participated in the war between 1942–46 on the German front, while Gurappa Narasappa Divatar of Badami, resigned from the army and entered into Quit India Movement.
Shivagangappa M Ullagaddi was prominent among those who had organized a procession on 9.8.1942, in Adathi Bazar (grain market) at Bijapur. About 1000 people, including Sangappa Nagamoti, Ningappa Boragi, Ratan Chand etc, had participated in that. On account of that, on August 14-15th hartals and processions took place in Talikota, Bisaladinni and Indi. Barrister Ankalikar got arrested. On August 16 although 90 persons got arrested in the hartal, 79 members, were released the same evening. On August 17th an assembly specially convened for that purpose held condolence meeting in the Town Hall of Bijapur. In Bagalkor also a very big procession took place. To disperse that crowd, the police wielded Lathi. Three of the workers were arrested. The Dharmasala and a Chavadi at Bijapur were burnt on 19.9.1942. In a management high school at Bijapur. The students observed hartal on 20.9.1942, resulting in the arrest of three persons. In protest against that, on September 27th, students of three English Schools in Bijapur took out procession.  

In Belgaum District.

First reaction to the news of Gandhiji’s arrest was huge demonstrations by students by boycotting classes in Belgaum. Shops were also closed. There was a public meeting at Tilakwadi where some student leaders were arrested. There was also a meeting in the Maruti temple of Belgaum and Dayananda Aralikatti was arrested. The mob turned unruly and was lathi-charged. Keshvarao Gokhale at Sankeswar, Basappa Argavi at Nandgad and Dr Kadalagikar at Gokak, Venkareddy Hooli at Ilooli, Latthe, Bhimrao Potdar, K S Patil, Jeevanrao Yalgi, Krishnaraao Yalgi, Anantrao Mandgi Shankar Kamat, Shantinatha Ingle, D L Adhyapak and Shanmukhappa Angadi were arrested in Belgaum.  

Hartal was observed by closing of shops and schools in the district. Schools and colleges remained closed for long, and before the heat of the events of 9th August could cool down, news came of the death of Mahadevbhai Desai. Meetings, processions and the police resorting to lathi
charge and bursting of tear gas shells became scenes in all urban centres and even villages. Gangadhar Rao was arrested on 15th August on his return from Bombay. On the 15th of August, Police fired and killed an young man, Satappa Topannavar at Kadivi Shivapur, a village in Parasgad taluk while a procession was on, and he was Karnataka’s first martyr of Quit India movement. There was firing at Bailhongal on 17-8-42 when a batch of workers were arrested and people gathered in hundreds to stop the vehicle taking the arrested and seven persons (Siddappa Sattigeri, Shivalingappa Kotambari, Ramappa Dodwad, Dattu Matade, Mallappa Hireholi, Rachappa Hebbal and Shivappa Belagavi) were killed. On the same day, henchmen of the police fired on a mob surrounding government offices at Nipani and Shankara Pangire, a young man died. As these methods of protest were continuing, cutting of telegraph wires and attempts to remove railway line and other forms of sabotage were resorted to.23

In Uttara Kannada District.

Uttara Kannada did not lag behind in this last phase of the movement despite the fact that the participants in the No-Tax Campaign had suffered for long due to loss of their lands.

On the evening of 9th August, 1942, Timmappa Nayak called a public meeting at Kumta and made a speech protesting against Gandhiji’s arrest, he was arrested. Processions and protest meetings were organised in other centres too, like Karwar, Ankola, Bhatkal, Kumta, Gokarn, Bilgi, Sirsi, Siddapur, Yellapur and Haliyal during the course of the whole week from 9th August. In Sirsi, Subrao Samasgikar and Gopal Desai were arrested on 10th August after a procession. In Siddapur, beginning with 11th August, two people offered satyagraha everyday by shouting anti-war slogans and courted arrest and this went on for almost a month. As warrants were issued on many prominent leaders, most of them went underground.24
Firings at Hubli.

Samyukta Karnataka (16th Aug 1942) reports that Mahadevbhai Desai died at 8:30 a.m. on the 15th. The news triggered off Hartal in Dharwad and also at Hubli. Shops, Cinema houses and even a Circus show were closed in Hubli. The Ghodke factory also did not work. Its five workers were arrested on the charges of loot and arson. A huge procession (of five to six thousand) was passing through the Koppikar Road (Hubli) towards Durgadabail. When it reached the police station, the police stopped the processionists from going further. “As the procession could not proceed in the main road, the participants sneaked into the by-lanes on both the sides. The A.S.P, who rushed to the spot, was not allowed to reach the station. He alighted and proceeded by foot. He could reach the station only through its backdoor. This infuriated him”. Fearing that the mob wood set fire to the station firing was ordered. In this incident of firing that took place at 7:30 p.m. one patriot was killed and nine others were injured. The deceased was a teenager and a high school student Narayan Mahadeva Doni. He became the first martyr of Quit India movement in Karnataka. Another nationalist namely Ishwar Thakur Katkar had to be amputated on the 16th as he had a bullet injury in his thigh.

Seventeenth August was a crucial day, and it is termed as the “Bloody Monday” due to the deaths caused by firing, as the movement took a violent turn with the unruly mob trying to take law into their hands over the deaths of patriots in the firing on the 15th and 16th. There were firings in almost all the main city centers of Karnataka. Against this background, Seventeen college students including B.G.Guttal were sentenced to imprisonment in Dharwad. Andanappa Kundargi of Gajendraghad was arrested at Gadag and veteran leader Paramanna Hosmani at Haveri when they attempted to burn Tahsil Office. Gajendragadh town observed total Hartal and organised a Procession compelling the British government to introduce constitutional reforms leading to the establishment of Responsible Government.
Hartal and the leading political personalities of the town viz S.G. Joshi, Shivangouda and L.N.Patil were arrested at Navalgund on 18th August, 1942.  

This spontaneous upsurge was mostly a natural expression of anguish and anger of the young nationalists against the continuation of imposed monarchical government of the British. As most of the leaders were arrested, there was no central organisation to guide them. However the underground pamphlets and bulletins of Congress instructed *Satyagrahis* on what to do and how to do. Boycott of schools, colleges and courts, resigning of posts by government servants, damaging the communication lines such as Posts, telegraphs, telephones, railways and bridges and undermining the war efforts by thwarting supplies to the army were the main targets. The daring acts of young men provided inspiration in many places during the later stages of Quit India Movement when the villagers and Peasants plunged into the underground activities.  

The police reports on the happenings between the 15th and 17th August help us to understand the intensity of the movement which speak of sabotage of road traffic in Dharwad district. The movement was reaching the nooks and corners of the Bombay Karnataka area. Two persons were arrested at Byadagi, in Dharwad District on the 18th August for delivering public speeches and for burning the post offices. Disturbances took place at Kurhatti and Shiggaon on 19th. Annigeri town observed Hartal on the 18th and two Persons were arrested. The Kannada weekly *Karmaveera* of Hubli was seized for Publishing the extract of *Harijan* which incited anti-British feelings. Arrests followed a Procession at Gadag on the 20th. The Dharwad district Local Board at its meeting held on the 24th passed a resolution condemning policies of exploitation by the government.  

Similarly the District School Board of Dharwad passed a resolution to mourn the demise of Mahadevbhai Desai. *Prabhat Pheri*, processions which later turned the patriots for sabotage
activities were held at Gadag, Alur and Ranebennur. The revolutionary freedom fighter viz Kashinathsa was arrested and imprisoned at Gadag. The students of Karnataka college at Dharwad, of Hubli cut Railway lines from Hubli to Yalavagi. Post boxes were snatched and thrown into the wells in almost all town and cities in the district. The deputy collector reports that the situation became grave at Gadag as road lines, bridges and communication wires were cut off.

The Satyagrahis compelled the district collector to wear Gandhi cap. It was a common feature to note that all freedom fighters whether workers or peasants, students or teachers, young or old wore Gandhi caps *Khadi* Dhoti and shirt as a symbol of nationalist spirit and offered *Satyagraha*. Shocked by this, the government imposed ban on the wearing of Gandhi cap. This irked the feelings of nationalists because wearing of Gandhi cap was an emblem of unity, national patriotism and spirit of *Swadeshi* rule. Against the ban, hundreds of nationalists led by P.H.Hottanahalli and Shamrao wore Gandhi caps in recognition of their pledge to derecognise the status of British officials. They arrested twenty nationalists including the leaders mentioned above under section 118 of Bombay Police Act and filed case on the nationalists in Dharwad Munshif court. The British judge asked the nationalists to remove Gandhi cap when the trial was going on. The nationalists refused to oblige. Finally they were sentenced for 18 months rigorous imprisonment. That was the spirit of patriots in Dharwad district during Quit India Movement.

The Bar Association of Hubli demanded an enquiry into the firings on 18th August and urged the British government to remove ban on the use of *Khadi* and Gandhi caps.

**The Organized Fight.**

To intensify the Quit India Movement, the K.P.C.C. resolved to fight an underground movement. For this, an Action Committee with Shri Channabasappa Ambli as the chairman, R.
R. Diwakar as secretary with three members viz, Sri R. S. Hukkerikar, Sri D. P. Karmarkar and Sri Srinivasa Mallya was formed. K.H.Kabbur of Bombay, noted industrialist, donated Rs.1,000 to this Action committee to support the activities of revolutionaries. The office bearers were expert in the manufacturing of *nadu* bombs and pistols. They were able to strike terror to British officials. R. R. Diwakar went underground, avoiding arrest. He was declared an absconder and the government announced a Prize of Rs. 5,000 to those, who produced him dead or alive. The Action Committee decided that Bombay should be its head quarters. A typewriter, a cyclostyle machine and minimum staff of two were provided. In addition to the members of the Action committee, Shankar Kurkoti, R.Srinivas Rao, Satya Bodh Singit and Narsimha Dabade of Dharwad were to work as contact Persons between the Action Committee and the state.

**Action Committee for Revolutionary Activities.**

The central office was not permanently located in a single place. Kurkoti says that first it was in a building called Sitabhavan in the Hindu colony at Dadar. Some of the nationalists of North Karnataka under the instructions of Wali Channappa, Mylar Mahadevappa, Kappatappa Beli guided the underground movement and showed path to militant nationalists as how terror be striked for destructing post telegraph and public buildings under British. They set up training camps for the workers at border places of Karnataka. They had their own printing press and means of publications. Amli Chennappa who knew printing and composition arranged to print English version and Kannada version at Pune which were posted from Nasik, Ahamadnagar and Solapur. They received even arms and ammunitations from Nasik, Ahamadnagar and Solapur for sabotage activities.

The Action Committee at Bombay had made arrangements to send circulars at the various Districts and Taluk levels. Dabade and Kurkoti were moving in Bombay Karnataka
area, especially in Dharwad and Belgaum district. Bindu Madhav Burli was another patriot and he was a moving spirit for the freedom fighters. The militant nationalists (leaders) of Bombay presidency entered different district and Talukas to meet the workers and to train them on sabotage activities in disguise as Koravangi, Tamburi, Koracha, Durugamma and Kavalettu players to escape from possible arrests by the police. These leaders, while making correspondence with the Head Office of Action Committee and other leaders, used their pen names to make their identification unknown to the police. For instance K.F.Patil used ‘Shiva Sangama’, Mylar Mahadevappa used ‘Kranti’, Veerannagowda Patil used ‘Viveka’, N.T.Dabade used ‘Prakash’, Shankar Kurtkoti used ‘Sridhar’, Hukkerikar Ramaraya used ‘Srinivas’, Sriranga Kamath used ‘Sriram’, Ambli Chennabasappa used ‘Shreshti’ and A.G.Banakar used ‘Bapu’ as their pen names.\textsuperscript{52}

One of the Action Committee members Narasimha T. Dabade says, “When there was less work in Bombay, I was asked to visit the state. During this Period I had been to Dharwad, Hubli, Haveri, Bellary, Belgaum, Gadag wearing Khaki shirt, half pant and black cap during the night by train. As per advance information, friends would be present at the station and they would take us to somebody’s house. At Dharwad, Hoskeri Narayanacharya, R.G.Hukkerikar, Keshavrao Kulkarni and Ananthrao Sawakar used to be with me, and when at Belgaum, I used to stay with P.K.Joshi at the Ritz talkies”.\textsuperscript{53} N.T.Dabade, Kurtkoti, Burli and others had warrants on them. They went underground. The government was keen to arrest them, ordered to shoot them at sight. It announced a Prize of Rs.2000 to those who produced their heads. Hence under these adverse conditions and political odds, these nationalists trained the youths for underground activities. \textsuperscript{54}
Waman Rao Bidari, a senior Congress worker was made the leader of Dharwad district. There was a central office for the district at Belgaum, which was looked after by Jayadevrao Kulkarni. There were 17 centers in the district, each with a group of 20 to 30 workers for intensifying the underground movement. They extended men and armed support in looting Karadogeri Nakas (revenue offices) to burn the revenue books and pattas.55

Sriranga Kamath, Bindu Madhava Burli, Narsimha Dabade, Kurtkoti, R.R.Diwakar, K.F.Patil and others were in contact with Dharwad group and formed militant wings to intensify the sabotage activities in southern parts of Dharwad district. 56 They were:-

1) Hirekerur wing under Sangur Leariappa and Shivappa Neswi.
2) Rannebennur wing under Timmanagouda Mensinhal.
3) Haveri wing under Mailar Mahadevppa.
   In northern parts of Dharwad district there were five wings.57 They were:-
4) Dharwad wing under Venktesh Magadi and K.B.Dundur.
5) Navalgund wing under Shivarayappa Mannanavar.
6) Gadag wing under Shivappa Kupsad.
7) Rone wing under Annappa Alagwadi.

The first four wings were named as
1) Ibhiram,
2) Balawant,
3) Kabir and
4) Dashrath respectively for their millitant operations.58

R. R. Diwakar in his memoirs writes, “Soon enough sabotage activities in Karnataka, especially in the three districts, Belgaum, Dharwad and Bijapur became well-known throughout India. I was invited to join the control committee in Delhi which was being led by the brave lady, Aruna Asaf Ali,” and adds further, “The Quit India Movement in India got a fillip with
appearance of Jayaprakash Narayan on active political scene. He was an acclaimed nationalist and socialist leader. He was hailed as our leader when I had occasion to acquaint him with the details of our organization and activities in Karnataka. He gave green signal to our workers to go ahead. He called our working system as ‘Karnataka Pattern’.” 59

All workers of different wings did their assigned work on a specified day. They burnt railway stations, post offices and village Chavadies uniformly all over the district.60 Hutchins has tried to explain the strategy ‘Karnataka Pattern’ thus. “Carefully coordinated lightening attacks would be made by groups often numbering several hundred who would be back innocently tending their fields by the time police arrived. The object was to cause as much damage as possible in a brief time, and the emphasis was thus on dislocation, rather than demolition or barricading train tracks rather than ripping them up” and “it was the technique of coordinated mass action by ordinary villagers which formed the most remarkable features of ‘Karnataka Pattern’. 61

The ‘Karnataka Pattern’ was developed in Bombay Karnataka, mainly in Belgaum district. The nationalists in four districts of Bombay Karnataka (Belgaum, Dharwad, Bijapur and Uttar Kannada) area had very successfully launched the civil disobedience movement between (1930-34) including no-tax campaign. Workers of Hindustani Seva Dal founded by N.S.Hardikar with Hubli as its head quarters also contributed to its success. The leaders such as Venkatesh Magadi, K.A. Venkataramaiah, Sangur Kariappa, Mylar Mahadevappa and others were outstanding men of Hindustani Seva Dal who formulated strategic plans to fight to the finish against British imperialism. 62

Regarding the activities of the underground workers B. Y. Deshpande (Annu Guruji) says, “They disrupted railway and Bus services. Railway stations and Bus stands were under
strict vigilance of police guards. Under the sunset, nationalists used to cover 30–40 miles a day by foot and destroyed all toddy shops and cut telephone wires from Rannebennur to Haveri and between Hubli and Savanur. We ate whatever that was provided to us by patriots in villages. We never had milk curd or tea for six months from August to October 1942. We never met our family members, but sent clues that we were safe. On the other hand the police arrested few of our friends and they were not permitted to see their relatives when they came to jails to see them. Ten to twelve Satyagrhis were kept in a single cell in the jail which measured 12’X12’ and tortured us. The police flogged freedom fighters with canes and sticks. Even under these adverse circumstances we had to work for years.” 63 This statement illustrates the adverse hardships the underground workers faced. Besides it displays their intense spirit of nationalism.

The underground wings were instructed to paralyze British administrative machinery by undertaking the following activities. 64

1) Cutting of communication lines.
2) Obstructing railway traffic by derailing the railway lines.
3) Causing de-railment by cutting railway lines.
4) Burning of village Chavadis and revenue books.
5) Burning of railway station, Govt offices, Dharmashalas and Dak Bangalows.
6) Attacking police stations, disarming police and to supply the looted arms and ammunitions to nationalists to strike terror to British.
7) Looting revenue offices.
8) Looting mailbags and dislocating post boxes.
9) Cutting roads, bridges to obstruct road communications and to prevent police jeeps from entering towns and villages.
10) Inciting people to loot and damage public property.

On the 16th of December 1942 telephone wires between every two alternate stations from Pune to Harihar and from Hubli to Bagolkot were cut. 65
Role of Labours and Students.

The industrial laborers and students also participated in Quit India Movement. They caused severe blow to British supremacy.\textsuperscript{66} Inspired by K.G.F. and H.A.L. worker, the workers of State Bharat Mill and Railway workshop at Hubli did not join duties on 9\textsuperscript{th} and 10\textsuperscript{th} August to support the cause of Gandhi.\textsuperscript{67} The Beedi workers came out of factories at Gadag, Ranebennur, Bankapur, Hanagal despite the order of suspension by factory owners.\textsuperscript{68} The students created history. They were encouraging spirit to people-young and old to work in the sabotage activities. They electrified Quit India Movement in the entire North Karnataka. Details in this regard can be seen from the reports of the police vide the Bombay Secret Abstract vide Para 842 of October 1942.

In Dharwad district, Hubli, Gadag, Haveri, Shiggaon, Ranebennur, Ron and Savanur were major centers of students’ movement. In Dharwad the students of Karnataka College and six other high schools went on strike. K. G. Joshi had resigned his job as teacher in Karnataka High school and guided the students’ movement. Another teacher namely Rudrappa Pattar had also resigned his job and went to Gadag to organize youths for the movement.\textsuperscript{69} This news was source of inspiration to both the teachers and students of the K.E.Board institutions. The Board was running three high schools. The teachers of these institutions like Shenolikar, S.G.Nadiger, V.K.Hulikatti, Harapana Halli and Mudholkar were also encouraging the students to paralyse British administration.\textsuperscript{70} Vimala Gulvadi a college student from Calcutta at Karnatak Collage Dharwad gave up her studies and plunged into the movement. Gopal Nakhate, Narayan Karwar, Ravi Coimbatore, Gangadhar Chittial, Gundu Nareboli, G.N.Joshi, Vikram Burli were some of the leading student leaders from Karnatak Collage who discontinued their studies and joined the Quit India Movement.\textsuperscript{71} The Karnataka College students on 8-9-42 observed hartal and presented Gandhi (\textit{Khadi}) caps to officers and to teaching and non-teaching staff. 32 students were arrested
at Dharwad. The next day in many villages, primary schools were closed, and students were engaged in fearless demonstrations against government demanding complete Swaraj to India.

When the Karnataka College re-opened on 17th September 1942 after Dasara vacation, the attendance was very poor. At Gadag about 600 students out of 700 of Municipal High school boycotted school till the release of Gandhi and held processions and Hartals. Student leader Jakatimath was arrested. The student union at Dharwad issued a memorandum to the District collector on 20th, demanding closure of schools and colleges in view of students’ unrest. Student leaders B.N.Sankeshwar and L.N.Pawate in Dharwad were fined Rs. 50 with three months imprisonment on 24-9-42 the rest were rusticated from College.

**Girls Created History.**

On Gandhi Jayanti day (2-10-1942) many students including girls were arrested for participating in procession at Dharwad. Two lady students viz Vimala Gulavadi and Hema shinolikar entered the district court on 24-10-1942, and unfurled the tri–colour flag in the Judge’s chamber. One of them sat on the Judge’s seat, asked the Judge to resign, distributed Swadeshi leaflets and then left the premises. This incident caused much flutter. These girls along with Gangu Belwadi, Leela Chavati, Indira Belwadi, Nagamma, Leelawati Magadi, Ambavva Kakade, Puttamma Angadi, Bhagavva Jadhav, Bhavanevva Peerappa Disale, Ambavva Hanumanthappa Halligudi, Bharamavva Sangappa Hadpad, Peeramma Kalesab Nadaf, Kadigavva Hanumanthappa Muddi, Bhimavva Chandusab Walikar, Nagavva Ramanna Undi and Gangavva Yamunappa Madivalar were subsequently arrested and imprisoned for three months for holding Haratal and processions at Haveri. The students of Karnataka High school observed Hartal over the arrest of popular leader-K.G.Joshi on 8-01-43. On the 26th January, both college and high school students observed ‘Independence Day’ and organized a procession. National flag was hoisted on the tomb of Thackeray on the Belgaum road.
In Hubli too, students organized a procession in 9-9-1942 to observe ‘Leader’s Day’ and shouted the slogans *Mahatma Gandhi ki jai, Vande Mataram, British Murdabad, Yene Barali Oggatirali* and ten were arrested. Two students were arrested on the charge of setting fire to Lamington High School on 27th. The students of Lamington, City and New High Schools of Hubli took active part by participating in all nationalist activities.

**Prabhat Pheris and Independence Day Celebrations.**

Ten students were arrested at Gadag on 5-9-1942, and they were let off in the night. Eleven school students at Haveri were sentenced to imprisonment on 2-10-1942 for taking out a procession. Records of Haveri school were set on fire on 15-2-1943 and national flags were hosted on public buildings.

Independence Day was observed at Gadag by students on 26-1-1943. At Dharwad also Independence Day was observed. Hartal and processions were taken and tri-colour flag was unfurled at many places, to show scant respect to de-recognize the British administration. Four students were arrested and released afterwards.

Sixteen students were arrested at Shiggaon for having taken out *Prabhat Pheri* on 20-9-1942, equal number of students of Shiggaon were arrested again on 27-9-1942 for organizing *Prabhat Pheri*. The students of Nargund on 20-9-1942 took out a *Prabhat Pheri*, and three students of Navalgund were arrested for this similar act. Furling British flags were encouraged by I.N.C. and unfurling tri-colour national flag as a measure to show allegiance of Indians to Mahatma instead of British Viceroy.

**Karnataka Pattern at Work in Bombay Karnataka.**

**Dharwad District.**

In many places college students who gave up their studies came to their native towns and villages to organize underground movement by inciting peasants. For example Shivanna Neswi, studying at Benares came to Haunsbhavi in Dharwad district, and worked as an important
member in the military wing of Kariappa Sangur. Thus many students gave up their studies and worked with young freedom fighters and with peasants to overthrow the British imperialism and colonialism.

Sabotage and subversive activities started spontaneously with students, workers and peasants joining the movement. Attack on government buildings, Liquor shops and vehicles carrying toddy, cutting of telegraph and telephone wires and damaging of rail tracks and railway stations were the earliest forms of sabotage. Though most of these early incidents were the outcome of mobfury, planned clandestine activities had started on the 13th August, 1942.

The first organized revolutionary work, as per the planning of Central Action Committee was the burning of four railway stations in a single night on September 15, 1942 at Amargol, Hebsur, Kusugal and Byadgi in Dharwad district. Sri Ranga Kamath was personally present as leader and guided when the people from Byahatti, Morab, and Huli burnt the Amargol station. Interesting point to note in this connection is that, Sriranga Kamath convinced his wife to donate gold bangles for the cause of freedom. He sold these bangles to gold smith at Belgaum for Rs.800 and used this money to purchase arms and ammunitions for destruction of Amargol Railway station. Hebsur station was burnt by advocate Dundur with the help of his four underground associates. Shivaji Kalal played an important role in this event. Venkatesh Magadi burnt the Kusugal station with the help of 30 underground workers of Tirlapur. Byadgi station was set on fire by the efforts of Thimmana Gouda Mensinhal and Kariyappa Sangur. Samyukta Karnataka a Kannada daily from Hubli dated 20-9-1942 writes of the burning of Godolli guest house in Khanapur Taluk and one police Chowki in Dharwad town and praised the bravery of those patriots.
The Samyukta Karnataka issues form 23rd to 29th September, 1942 report the burning of school at Mugutkhan Hubli and the toddy shop at Hattargi and cutting of telephone wire at Malamaddi. The patriots set on fire the record room of the Karnataka College Dharwad on 25th September 1942. The nationalists set fire to the Lamington High school building of Hubli and two students leaders viz. H.S.Patil and Mamle Desai were arrested in this connection.

According to the Bombay secret abstract of September 1942 vide para 925, “Incidents of organized mob violence for political motives have been reported from districts of Belgaum, Dharwad and Kanara. The postbags were snatched from postal runner, cash was taken from him, the letters and orders of British administration were burnt on 30th September 1942.” Thus caused administrative and communication disorders to the British.

The Samyukta Karnataka issue dated 2-10-1942 reports “a mail bus was attacked near Sidenur by a mob of 80 persons wearing masks and a mailbag looted and the Rattihalli P.W.D. bungalow was burnt by a mob of 50 persons.”\textsuperscript{97} The Bombay secret Abstract (of the third week of October in para 965) states, “The general tempo of civil disobedience movement appears to have showed down except in the districts of Ahmednagar, Belgaum and Dharwad. In Belgaum and Dharwad districts underground Congress agitators continue subversive activities designated to dislocate the administration. Furniture and records were burnt at Kotbagi School (Dharwad district”). “A mob of about 200 persons from the village of Morab, Tirlapur and Byahatti gathered in from of the house of the officiating police patel (of Morab) on October 10th and threatened to take him in procession on a donkey if he refused to resign his post”.\textsuperscript{98} Infact the Patel of Morab, Subbarao had resigned his post in August in response to Congress call.\textsuperscript{99} Morab had been an important center of the movement, the people from here working under the leadership of Venkatesh Magadi as already noted, they had participated in the burning of
Amargol Railway station, Amminbhavi Rest House (Oct 22) and the burning of Hulkoti Railway station (30-10-1942). The village became a nightmare to the police who called it “Taggu Moraba” as the people had dug huge pit (Taggu) to see that the police vehicle fall, and the villagers including women suffered a lot in the hands of the police. Totally 124 people from the village were convicted during the movement. Rajasab Dube, Basappa Subedar, Basappa Janur, Venkat Reddy Manekwad, Hanumreddy Huli were among them. They faced all trials and tribulations at the hands of police for liberation of motherland from the clutches of British.

The Samyukta Karnataka issue dated 12-10-1942 reports of looting of mailbags by stopping mail bus at Bidarkatti on the Byadgi–Hirekerur road. The issue of 10th October reported the successful efforts of nationalists to burn the Dak bungalow at Hubli, bungalow at Raltihalli and the setting fire on the school at Bassapur near Kittur.

During the third week of October too “conditions in Belgaum and Dharwad districts did not improve for the British in spite of the frequent raids carried out by the police and the military. Between 16th and 22nd, four postal runners were robbed in Dharwad district. On 17th another mail bus was looted at Kundagol, between Hubli and Yallapur. It is further stated “the police were successful in arresting about 130 persons who were suspected to be saboteurs from 15 villages of Dharwad taluka and kept them at Ranebennur and Hirekerur police stations from October 29th to November 1st, 1942. Attacks were made on school buildings to burn the records at Agadi, Ichangi Alnavar and Nargund. An attempt to burn a police chowky in Dharwad town was made on November 6th. The D.L.B. rest house at Yamanur was attacked and it was completely burnt on November 6th by hundreds of patriots. They were equipped with arms and they damaged public property worth of 3000.102
Para 1019 of Bombay secret Abstract states that there was a big explosion caused by the students of the Karnatak College, Dharwad in Science Laboratory on November 12th. ‘A mob of 100 Persons burnt the Hole Alur Railway station which was patrolled by 12 constables’. 103

On November 22nd, the Savanur Railway station was damaged by a batch of 40 nationalists.104 In his reminiscences, Govindacharya Agnihotri, writes that veteran leader Paramanna Hosmani was arrested on 17-8-1942, Bindu Madhava Burli visited Haveri in disguise on 30-8-1942 and discussed with Mailara Mahadevappa about the future programmes, and the latter organized the youths of the taluk to spread the movement by leaps and bounds. They worked out many strategies and looted mailbag at Hosaritti on 13th October, burnt Chavadi at Yalgach on 29th, and the Chavadis of Havanur, Surnagi and Wadavi on 15-11-1942. Burning of Savanur Railway station was accomplished by the militants of Haveri.105 Parasanagouda Kakade, one of Mailar Mahadevappa’s co-workers says that this batch consisted of people from Halagi, Koganur, Hebbal, Belavigi, Negalur, Hosaritti, Wadavi and Nagaramadu. They burnt the Chavadies of Hattimattur, Karajagi, Balehosur, Nagarmadu, Bijjur and Honnatti and Wadavi.106 The same gang burnt the village Chavadi at Surnagi the next day.107 Between November 14th and 19th, telephone wire were cut and 30 telephone poles were damaged in Dharwad district.108 A Chavadi was burnt at Havanur in Haveri Taluk and all relevant revenue records were thrown to the flames of fire.109

The British government moved heaven and earth to book the culprits and even prize of Rs.100 was announced by the government for those who help in the arrest of underground leaders responsible for burning of Daftar of Wadavi in Dharwad district. 110 Dak Banglows at Mugutkhan Hubli and Kalhalli were burnt. On 25th November.111 On 29th November a bomb explosion took place on the railway track near the Saptapur Chowki of Dharwad town. 112
The Congress gangsters launched raids on the houses of village revenue official in order to destroy revenue records to procure fire arms and swords from the officials which were kept in office for their protections. The government with a view to check the illegal possession of arms ordered that the licensed holders should submit their arms and non licensed holders should surrender the illegal arms in police stations forth with.\textsuperscript{113}

This clearly indicates how helpless the government was at the mighty waves swept by Quit India Movement. If firearms were to be deposited in police stations, would they be safe there? Even police stations were raided and firearms were snatched by the nationalists.\textsuperscript{114} Thus the martial spirit of militant of nationalism was in motion to secure democratic form of government by keeping the imperialist and colonialist forces at bay.

Despite the police atrocities in Navalgund and Hubli Talukas, destruction of village records and incendiarism to government property continued in Dharwad and Bombay Karnataka from 21\textsuperscript{st} to 29\textsuperscript{th} December 1942. Government schools and offices at Margund, Karjigi and Dharwad were badly damaged.\textsuperscript{115}

Sabotage of telephone and telegraph communications increased. There was no means of communications from Belgaum to Dharwad. Bomb explosions at schools in Gadag (15\textsuperscript{th} December, 1942) and Nargund (21\textsuperscript{st} December, 1942) and on rail track near Karjigi and Savanur on 28\textsuperscript{th} of December 1942 indicate the intensity of terrorism caused by the patriots for freedom.\textsuperscript{116}

Village records of Tadas, Birankop, Nellikop, Kummur and Sunkop which were under the custody of the Tadas Kulkarni were removed and burnt on 7\textsuperscript{th} Jan (1943). On 9\textsuperscript{th}, records of Madanbhavi were snatched from the Kulkarni at Tadkod. Similarly revenue records at Gadag, Bogur, Bhavihal, Kotur and Akkihalur were snatched from the Police Patils and Kulkarnis and
they were burnt during the period between December 31\textsuperscript{st} (1942) and January 31\textsuperscript{st} (1943).\textsuperscript{117} Punitive fines ranging from Rs. 400 to 4000 were imposed on the villagers of Kadur Kudapali and Sudambi of Hirekerur taluka.\textsuperscript{118}

In order to protect the Police Patils and Kulkarnis, the government instructed to shift all revenue records and \textit{Pattas} of villages to taluka \textit{Kacheri} where they were kept under police vigilance.\textsuperscript{119} But the nationalists raided even taluka Kacheris at Ranebennur and Hirekerur.\textsuperscript{120} Riffles from two police constables at Narendra Halli were snatched.\textsuperscript{121} Besides, under the instructions of Chennappa Wali and V.H.Patil, sixteen Chawadies were raided and the valuable records were destroyed during the period from 8-4-43 to 19-2-43.\textsuperscript{122}

\textbf{Looting of Arms and Ammunitions.}

Snatching of weapons from Government officials was another programme. Two guns were snatched from Hebbal police near Navalgund.\textsuperscript{123} At Yawagal, the postal records and records of Police Patil were burnt and one gun and six swords were snatched on the 31\textsuperscript{st} of January.\textsuperscript{124} One gun and two swords were snatched from the Police Patil of Gumgol on 28\textsuperscript{th} January 1943. Defensive arms were snatched from Kulkarnis of Tadkod and Yadwad 29\textsuperscript{th} January.\textsuperscript{125}

These snatched weapons were taken for use by the underground workers to threaten government officials and loyalists during their underground activities; they did not kill any body by using them. With these weapons, the Action Committee called upon the nationalists to loot the police stations, \textit{Chavadies}, the houses of Patels, Kulkarns and Shanbhogs.\textsuperscript{126}

The celebration of Independence Day on January 26, 1943 all over the state was a notable event. In villages, towns and cities, the patriots celebrated Independence Day by hoisting national flags on all government and semi-government buildings and on the buildings of congress offices. They took oath of allegiance to the activities of the Indian National Congress.
They shouted slogans – *Bharat Mata Ki Jai, Vande Mataram* and recited national anthem. Above all, congress workers observed ‘Leaders Day’ on 9th of every month and leaders addressed the gatherings and incited people to fight for the ancient glory of the country and for its preservation. All village, taluka and district committees organised ‘Leaders Day’ functions. Women workers distributed pamphlets to people. They contained the messages of the leaders to the people regarding the nationalist activities to be undertaken to root out British rule.

*Samyukta Karnataka* of 23-2-43 writes that In the process of conducting these functions a confrontation took place between the nationalists and the police while hoisting of national flag on the occasion of leaders day at Gadag.

The Greater part of the province (Bombay) was quiet during the week. The situation in Karnataka continued to be unsatisfactory. An explosion at the Gadag high school on 23rd February and an assault on a police party of 45 at Morab who were seriously wounded and three handguns were snatched (“a serious incident”). Section 144 was imposed in Gadag, Betageri, Hulikoti, Yadwad and Tadkod. The nationalists were harassed and imprisoned. They were all trailed and punitive fine of Rs.20,000 was imposed on each village.

**Martyrdom of Mylar Mahadevappa.**

Quit India Movement in Dharwad dist in particular and Karnataka in genera shall remain incomplete, if a word or two is not said about Mylar Mahadevappa is one of that small number of Indians who, as if by instinct, came under the fascination of Gandhiji’s personality, and served the national cause with unflinching devotion and courage, their life terminating in the supreme sacrifice. He was a true son of Karnataka, a land of heroes and heroines who have added luster to the land of their birth.
For the first time in his life, Mahadevappa listened to a speech explaining to the people the aims and objects of Gandhiji and the paramount national need of Khadi. He came to know what leaders like Kallangowd Patil, Nesvi, Diwakar and others were doing in Karnataka. Though his knowledge of English was rudimentary he read Gandhiji’s New India regularly, and he was captured by the message of Khadi and the revival of Swadeshi.132

Mahadevappa had heard about the youth league founded by two youth leaders, Gudleppa Hallikeri and N.B.Hiremath, whose object was to give the necessary training to young men to work in the national cause. He went to Gudleppa Hallikeri and expressed his desire to join the league. He joined the league and became its active member to serve the national cause with unflicting fidelity to Liberty.133 Gandhiji had started historic Dandi March on 12th March with 79 volunteers specially selected by him. That Mahadevappa was selected as the sole representative from Karnataka is eloquent testimony to the esteem in which he was held by Gandhiji.134

Mahadevappa established an Ashram on the lines of the Sabarmati Ashram, at Koradur on the bank of the Varda River. He sent his wife, Srimati Siddamma to Sabarmati to receive training in national reconstruction work, so that she could work with him.135

He was a hero in 1942 Quit India Movement in Dharwad district. His revolutionary activities may be described as follows. The capture of the mail, which was being carried from the Savanur railway station, was one of the earliest exploits of this group. On the day previously fixed upon, one of Mahadevappa’s parties managed to get into the truck, which carried the mail. The rest of the party waited some miles away on the road, which they had blocked with tree trunks, etc. When the Motor truck came and stopped before the obstruction, Mahadevappa and his men rushed in and carried away the mail, causing no harm either to the vehicle or to the
inmates. The party went far away from the scene of action the same night, and the police party sent to apprehend them were unable to learn their whereabouts.136

In this way the work of destroying Government buildings, cutting Communications and robbing Government money went on in several places, the lightning rapidity with which these men got away from the field of action and the support and protection which the people gave them wherever they went making detection impossible. At one time the rumour went round among the people that the railway station of Gudgeri would be burnt. The police, learning of this, rushed to the place to prevent the attack and to apprehend the culprits. While the police waited at Gudgeri expecting an attack on the railway station, they heard that Mahadevappa and his men had burnt the Savanur railway station. It was a grim and resolute game of hide-and-seek between the police and Mahadevappa. Night and day, without rest or proper food, these patriots roamed the country, raiding Government offices and burning records, capturing Government mail and seizing Government money in transit. Mahadevappa captured the revenue collections at Maruvala, the Patel gave him some of his own money also.137 While carrying on the work of paralyzing the administration in this way, Mahadevappa found time to explain to the people in rural parts the significance of the struggle launched by the Congress and to tell them what their duty was. People responded to his call in large numbers. In the village of Halagi and in some other places women went out carrying the national flag and begged the village and taluk officials to resign. Many of those who did not directly participate in the fight helped Mahadevappa’s party by providing them with food and shelter and by giving them information about the movements of the police. The police tried all means to capture them, but the intrepid band of patriots moved about with lightning speed and ever eluded them. Finding the local police ineffective in dealing with them, the Government brought a posse of policemen from
Maharashtra to Haveri taluk, and announced a reward of Rs. 300 to anyone who would capture or help in the capture of Mahadevappa.¹³⁸

Hosairtti is a village in Haveri taluk. There was a Gandhi Ashram in that village and the people were national in outlook. Government now made the village a center for revenue collection, probably in the hope that Mahadevappa and his party would one day visit the place. The revenue collected was kept in Veerabhadreshwara temple and police stood guard over it day and night. During the past eight months Mahadevappa and his men had successfully carried out seventy-four exploits, and capturing the Government money at Hosaritti would be their seventy-fifth. This coincidence appeared to be a happy augury, and Mahadevappa decided upon capturing the revenue collections at Hosaritti. That the Government’s aim in making the place a center of revenue collection might be to lure him to the place and capture him, did not frighten him in the least.¹³⁹

Mahadevappa and his men spent the night of the 31ˢᵗ March in a forest on the way to Hosaritti, and arrived there early on the next morning. When they reached the temple where the cash box was kept, they found there were only three men on guard, the others having gone for their ablutions. Mahadevappa’s men also went to the river. Though alone, he decided that this was the best opportunity to seize the box. Thirukappa Koganur and Veeriah, two of his close associates, joined him. Mahadevappa suddenly sprang upon one of the guards and overpowered him in a trice on April 1ˢᵗ 1942. Leaving this man to his comrades, he jumped upon another policeman before he could lift his gun into position to shoot and brought him down. The third policemen retreated into the inner sanctum of the temple. Now the three men attempted to carry away the chest, but it was very heavy and bound by strong chains. It took them ten minutes of Herculean effort to move the box a few feet towards the door. Meanwhile the policemen who
had retreated into the sanctum too courage and fired, and Mahadevappa’s hand was hurt. A second shot hit him square and he fell down mortally wounded. Thirkappa and Veeriah ran up on their fallen leader. They were about to spring upon the policeman and tear him to pieces, but Mahadevappa, with his last breath, exhorted them to desist from violence and retaliation and remain true to the creed of Ahimsa. The policemen who were outside had heard the sound of the boots and they hurried up. Seeing the two men trying to carry away the body of Mahadevappa, they shot them dead.\textsuperscript{140}

Thus passed away while still a young man of twenty-nine a noble patriot and true disciple of Gandhiji. Love of motherland seems to have been in his blood. After Gandhiji and all the other political leaders were sent to prison in August, 1942, he decided to follow the directive that every patriot should be his own leader, and organized a close and earnest band of fighters whose sole purpose was to paralyze the administration and thus compel the British to quit India. Mahadevappa thought that destruction of Government property and looting of Government money would be consistent with the principles of the Congress so long as he did not harm any human being. He passed way exhorting his associates not to use violence against the enemy who had shot him. Karnataka is proud of this patriot who gave his life so that his countrymen might live in freedom.\textsuperscript{141}

The Action Committee sent instructions to all underground workers to stop all underground and subversive activities as desired by Gandhiji. On 26\textsuperscript{th} January 1944, tricolour was unfurled at the Karnataka College, Dharwad. Batches of women from Tirlapur and Byahatti organised separate processions from their village to Dharwad and courted arrest. At Ron, Shivappa Nellur and six others similarly courted arrest on the same day. According to a call given to celebrate National Week during April ending on the 13\textsuperscript{th}, various programmes were
organised in the district in different centres. Later, on August 9 (1944) Diwakar surrendered himself to the police at Hubli. Similarly Channabasappa Ambali surrendered to the police at Bijapur. With this the curtain was down on the Quit India Movement in the district. More than 2,000 people must have been arrested by the police. In the jails at Hindalga and Visapur, due to the spread of Cholera or such other epidemics several people died. But the movement in the whole country was unprecedented and it shook the British throne. In Karnataka, and especially in Belgaum and Dharwad districts, the underground movement was very strong and became famous as Karnataka Pattern. Dharwad was next only to Belgaum in this respect. Diwakar from Dharwad district was a member of All-India Committee (to guide the movement) headed by Aruna Asaf Ali and later by the Committee headed by Sucheta Kripalani. Most of the leaders were in jail till 1945. (Major source for this account is ‘Quit India Movement in Karnataka’ - both in English and Kannada by Dr. Suryanath U. Kamath). Princely areas in Dharwad district (such as Sangli, Junior Miraj, Senior Miraj and parts of Jamkhandi states) had an association called Praja Samsthe, inspired by the ideology of the Congress. Shirhatti, a part of Sangli State had a leader called Ashwatha Rao Mahishi, who was a classmate of Tilak; Srinivasarao Magadi and Borashetty were the other leaders from the place. At Shigli Basavakumar Mulgundmath was the leading person. In 1939, the region suffered a drought. Agitation for exemption from payment of land revenue was successful. Similarly, in Kundgol (part of Jamkhandi) in 1938-39 people similarly conducted a movement, supported by Diwakar. They had even thought of No-Tax campaign. The movement succeeded and the Congress also was strengthened there. In 1938, in the Lakshmeshwar taluk of Miraj State, land revenue was increased. Conference of the Praja Samsthe was held at Sangli and under the leadership of Gangadhar Rao Deshpande a committee was appointed. A cut in revenue collection to the tune of 20% was granted. Due to the urgings of
congress, people were awakened in all the princely areas. During the 1942 movement, people of the princely dominions had participated with great enthusiasm. The Savanur Railway Station had been damaged during the movement. India attained independence after relentless struggle and martyrdom of many a thousand freedom fighters, on the midnight of 15th Aug. 1947. This event was celebrated with joy and fan fare by all the people across the length and breadth of the country. The people of Dharwad also celebrated the event with much jubilation and the tricolour was unfurled in all conspicuous places throughout the district.¹⁴¹

The proposal that various divisions in Bombay Presidency must have regional universities had been upheld by passing a resolution in the Legislative Council by the efforts of Dr. Mahajani. In 1940-41, the effort received momentum by the setting up of a committee with S.S. Basavnal as the Chairman. Noted writer Sriranga was its convenor. The government appointed a committee with Justice Lokur as the Chairman. As the local committee provided all the requisite information to the Lokur Committees, its job became easy. Accordingly, an Act to create Karnataka University was passed in 1949 and an office of the University was opened at Bombay. Advocate R.A. Jahgirdar (Bombay) was appointed as the Vice-Chancellor. The university started functioning from Dharwad on 31st March 1950. It had 14 colleges under its jurisdiction and the agricultural college founded at Dharwad in 1947 was also brought under its jurisdiction. The Radio Broadcast Station (of AIR) was also setup at Dharwad in 1950 and R.R. Diwakar who had then become the Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting was instrumental in establishing this Station. In 1946, elections were held to the Bombay Legislature and all the contestants from Congress got elected. The Congress legislator from the district, Kallanagauda F. Patil became the Parliamentary Secretary for Agriculture and Forests. Timmappa Nesvi started ‘Navayuga’ a Kannada daily in 1947 (from Hubli) and ‘Vishala
Karnataka’ which was being published from Dharwad by Jathar was bought over by Kallanagauda F. Patil and shifted to Hubli. Patil Puttappa was the editor of this newspaper. An enclave of 12 villages including Itagi belonging to the Hyderabad Nizam was surrounded by areas of Ron taluk, and in 1947 volunteers from Hyderabad State and local congressmen freed it, almost a year in advance of the Police Action. There was a camp to protect the borders of Hyderabad from the transgressions of the Razakars and it was founded at Mundargi with Alawandi Shivamurthy Swamy being incharge of it. For guiding and helping the people’s movement in the Kannada regions of Hyderabad state, an office had been founded at Gadag in the house of Garuda Sadashiva Rao, and Janardhana Rao Desai was looking after the office. Hundreds of people had migrated from across the borders of Hyderabad, and there was a camp at Gadag for such refugees and Basavigidad Veerappa of Gadag had arranged for their food and shelter. There was another, camp at a place called Hallikeri. Till the ‘Police Action’ of 1948, these arrangements continued. In 1950, 12 villages of Yalburgi taluk, were merged into Ron taluk, namely, Itagi, Gulguli, Hire Alagundi, Chikka Alagundi, Shantagiri, Bommasagar, Guddad Mallapur, Sarjapur, Bilgod, Honniganur, Tallihal, Mugali and Yarekurubanahal.¹⁴²

**In Bijapur District.**

The Congress workers undertook underground activities and caused serious harm to public property in order to weaken the Government. These activities took place in the following places of the district: Guledgud, Parvathi, Choladagud, Jalihala (Belur). Yankanchi, Kittale, Belur, Kerur, Badami, Maninaga of Badami taluk; Mallapura, Bevur, Galagali, Sunaga and Bagalkot of Bagalkot tatuk; Herakal, Galagali, Takali, Mundaganur of Bilagi; ilkal, Bisaladinni, Amingad, Kamatgi, Gudur, and Koppa of Hunagunda taluk; Masabinala, Ingalagi, Donur, Sasanur, Somanala, Byalihala, ingaleswar and Murnala of Basavana Bagewadi taluk; Mudhol of
Mudhol taluk; Davalagi, Talikota, Konnur Tarnala and Muddebihal of Muddebihal taluk; Hittinahalli Tamba, Chikkarugi, Devara Hippargi and Padaganur of Sindagi taluk; Kuchanur, Banahatti, Savalgi, Bidari and Jamakhandi of Jamakhandi taluk; and Atharga Chadachana, Bhuyyara, Salotgi, Horthi, Hirebevinur, Havinala of mdi taluk etc. Cutting off Telegraph lines was one of the sabotage activities undertaken. Accordingly, Kalakamba Master, a High school teacher at Banahatti and his followers played a significant role in cutting off the Telegraph lines between Savalagi and Jainbagi. Under the leadership of Kalakamba Master, on the occasion of the Saraswathi Pooja, instead of Saraswathi portrait, Gandhi’s Portait was taken out in procession in Banahatti. Maralingappa Janappa Madar of Shivanagi destroyed the telegraphic pole on 21.9.1942, accepted the punishment and suffered imprisonment for a period of 18 months at Yarawada and Poona Central jails.\footnote{143}

The group led by Mahadevappa Murugod, in Murugod, was engaged in the destructive activities, and they used a country made bomb to blast the Banahatti Chavadi. At Savalgi police station they had seized the guns, and it is also learnt that they had plans to burn the railway station of Shedabala. That group also included Paraiah Malakaiah Bangi of Banahatti. Towards the end he was arrested in Mudhol. Venkaresh Krishnaji Khasnis had brought on record that Telegraph lines were cut off between Mudhol-Bagalkot, Mudhol-jamakhandi, Janiakhandi-Kuchanur and the School buildings at Chimmad and Metigudda were burnt down. S.R Upadhye, Surendra Vandrekar, Bhoopala Vandrekar, Rayappa Belagali etc. of Alagur had participated in Jamakhandi Prajaparishat Sabha held at Tungala in 1942. It is learnt that the railway line between Bagalkot and Kadlimatti was severely damaged by the combined efforts of Tippanappa of Masabinala, Shankarappa Guddi, Channabasappa Ambali, Malawada, Chikkarugi Shivaraya, and four others of Benakarritti.\footnote{144}
Ranganatha Habbu, Lakshmana Novi, Babu Krishnacharya Shahapura, Mahadeva Gurupadappa Katti, Hanpmantha Ganesh Joshi etc. looted the postal bags at Galagali. Maralingappa janappa Madar of Shivanagi destroyed the telegraph poles at the village nearby and got arrested. Krishna Rao Jorapur of Bagalkot was forced to loose his factory for having participated in the underground activities. Mallappa Fakirappa Vaddar and others cut off the Telegraph lines between Malaghana-Sindagi. Venkatappa Desai, Gurulingappa Ambali of Arjunagi and Doddamani got arrested. Shivalingappa Shiragodappa Gunaki, Loni, Wali, Saibanna etc. of Arharga, participated and suffered confinement. At the same time, Kallaiah Donuru, Channaiah Marapati burnt the post offices of Atharga and Athani and suffered three months punishment. In that movement, SR. Kanti gave the call to underground movement and played a very important role. Kaujalagi Hanumantha Ran had his good will for the underground movement and secretly helped the participants in that movement.145

Gurubasappa Hampanappa Pagi of Guledgud cut off the Telegraph poles between Kamatgi-Magi. Balavanchappa Hanumantharayappa Uppara of Sasanur, inspired by the local Sangappa a Desai, distributed the cladestined Bulletin in 1942 movement and organized gatherings, for which he was subjected to punishment for a period of one year and reached Visapur jail. It is learnt that Nagendrappa Marojappa Kapatkar of Bijapur suffered nazar criminal for three years.146

Siddappa Malawada and Maharudrappa Pactanasetty of Cholachagud played a leading role in the struggle. Basavva Cholachagud w/o Shankarappa Chalavadi was sentenced to three months punishment and sent to central jail in Belgaum. Ambanna Chandrappa Bijjaragi of Chonasagi was punished for having cut off the telegraphic lines between Athani-Muchakhandi roads. Shivamandiraiah Guraiah Jalavadi of Basavana Bagewadi, Baba Sahib C Bagewadi of
Bijapur had also participated in that and suffered arrest. B.S Makandar of Muddebihal, Cunda bhatta Joshi of Culedgud, Sabanna Singada, Madivalappa Pattanasetty and Sidramappa Tippa Devagirkar had led the struggle in Guledgud. Phakiravva Balloli had also participated in the struggle. Having cut the Telegraphic lines in Jeevanagi, Sangappa Rudrappa went to the jail in Badami. Ningappa Ramappa Kulholli of Rabakavi, and Shankarappa Padadi also participated in that and got imprisoned. Urrarakar of Dhavalagi along with his associates destroyed the Telegraph lines at Geddalamati and Torave. Ranga Rao Kulkarni played an important role in the Quit India Movement at Sindagi, mdi and Muddebihal.  

Mumbai Secret Abstract Report states that the Civil disobedience Movement had then entered its third week. On the whole, though the heat of the situation seemed to be on the decline still the situation was bordering on danger. The groups engaged in working on Sabotage activities had continued the movement in their respective villages. It is recorded that besides the destruction of Telegraph and Telephone lines removal of Fish Plates and bolts to cause disruption of rail movement is being continued in Belgaum, Dhanvar and Bijapur districts.  

The responsibility for the destructive activities of the movement in the district was handed to Channabasappa Ambali and Nabisab Balasingh Master, Lingaiah Jangin of Bagalkot and Siddappa Malawada of Cholachagud assisted them. The house of Parappa Dundargi in the Shikharakhana area of Bijapur had been the home for secret meetings of the underground activists. The make shift shop of Basappanna Paleda at Bagalkot was the centre for the secret meetings of the activists of the movement. Bhimakumar, the Sevadal worker from Bangalore as Secretary, had played a significant role in the movement at Bijapur. To the underground activist groups the central committee was sending the required sums of money, at the rate of Rs. Eight to ten per month, through Vaman Rao Bidari.
Shankar Kurtakoti, one of those who worked as an intermediary in providing communication to the central committee, used to stay in the house of an Advocate at Kankanavadi, spent his teenage engaged in the destructive activities, had set fire to an English School and courted arrest. It is learnt that Kurtakoti sported a red Naamam (the caste mark on the fore head), and such other marks befitting the appearance of a priest and thus escaped from the eyes of the Bijapur police. As the tempo of the movement went on gaining strength, railway stations became targets for the fire of the activists. At that time about 25 railway stations in Karnataka were destroyed. K.G Desai, set on fire and burnt the record room of the Taluk office of Bagalkot in Bijapur district on October eighth. On the same day, Bijapur police station was bombed. On October third, a group of 13 persons of Savalagi, with Irnam Sahib Mulla of Hidakal, as their leader, went to loot the treasury at Athani but, got arrested in Athani bus-stand itself on the basis of the information furnished by an informer from Kokatnur. On October 28th rail lines were disrupted between Nimbal-Minchinal stations and the train went off the track and suffered damages.\(^{150}\)

On November eighth 1942, Minchinala and Jumanal railway stations became targets to the activists of the movement and they were burnt. In that incident the people from Atharga, Nagatana and Chikarugi villages were present. Under the leadership of Channabasappa Ambali, workers like Dundappa Uppara, Marigowdappa Patil, Malakappa Pyati, Yasvantha rao Patil, Siddappa Malawada, Tippanna Balappa Bosagi etc. played a significant role. On 25\(^{th}\) of the same month railway station of Nimbala was burnt to ashes. The School of Jumanala was burnt during the same month. On 16.12.1942, successfully cut off the Telegraph lines completely between Poona-Harihar and Hubli-Bagalkot railways by about One ‘0’ clock, in the afternoon. For having committed the offence of burning the railway station at Malawada, the 13-
member group of Saravada, was punished with imprisonment for a period of four years. Towards the end of 1942 the district suffered a severe drought. Due to the drought condition, the movement was temporarily stopped. The Special Courts with extra-ordinary powers to impose death penalty on persons engaged in destructive activities were established at Dharwar, Bijapur, Belgaum and Karwar. Apart from that the British Government had announced a prize of Rs. 5,000 in cash, on the heads of prominent underground activists, especially, Chennabasappa Ambali. Yet, the underground activities were carried on without any hindrance.151

The movement was resumed in Bijapur once again in February 1943. The Mumbai Secret Abstract report record that, by about second week of January 1943, states that with the exception of Mumbai-Karnataka region, all other areas in Bombay state were peaceful, with Law and Order conditions remaining normal. Yet, here and there stray cases of destruction of village records, robbing of weapons and licenses had taken place. Towards the end of January, only in Karnataka, setting up of fire, social violence and robbing of weapons went on unabated as reported.

Pained due to the stray incidents, Gandhi stopped taking food, as part of his Satyagraha, on February 10th in the Jail. Harrals and prayer meetings were held here and there. On February 22nd hartal and prayer assembly was held at Jamakhandi pressing for the release of Gandhi and Telegrams were sent, on February 23rd at Bijapur, on 27th at Kamartagi and Jamakhandi. Telegram lines were cut off. On February 27 a public meeting was called at Bijapur and protests were held. Sabotage activities continued in Karnataka till the end of April. The destruction of Telegraph and Telephoie lines had taken place at Belgaum. Bijapur and Canara districts and reports were there about such activities having taken place between I3agalkot and Amingad. In the meanwhile, Kaujalagi Hanumantha Rao, who had struggled day and night for the freedom of
the nation, died on May 31st 1943. Meanwhile a revenue of Rs 190 was looted by a gang of eight, near Badami. In June 1943, Annu Guruji, who had remained underground, got arrested. Hartal was observed in Jamakhandi on August 9, 1943.152

Diwakar met Gandhiji, and reported briefly about the underground activities of the movement in Karnataka. Then Gandhi hinted at discontinuing the underground activities in favour of Non-violence. On the same day under the presidentship of Suchetha Kripalini, All India Satyagraha Mandal came into existence and Diwakar became its member. Open Civil disobediences became its main activity. In the mean while, the Guledgud group cut off the Telegraph lines and the railway track, resulting in the derailment of a goods train at Lakmapur. That helped in the burning of the railway station at Hole Alur. The plan of burning the Badami stadium failed due to the arrest of Mahadevappa Murugod on November 9th at Pattadakal. ‘Swatantrya’ the underground Kannada monthly, started by Channabasappa Ambali, carried in its issue dated 10.1. 1944, that, the movement was still active in Bijapur district and also pointed towards the discontinuation of underground activities in preference to open Srayagraha. As directed by Gandhiji, on January 15th Narasimha Dabade got arrested. On January 20th 1944, in the Chavadi of Ghosanagi village near Bijapur, the Tricolour was hoisted. On the same day processions were taken out at Jamakhandi, both in the early morning and in the evening. In the state around 180 persons got arrested. The report informs that, telegraph lines were cut at Alamela and other areas during the first week of February. It is also reported that, by February 26th Ankalikar, Bala Singh Master, Sugandhi Murigappa etc, were released. A call was given for observing National week in Bijapur on April 13th 1944. Flag salute, Hartal and processions were held. In the meanwhile, on 9.5.1944, Gandhi was released from jail. On July 28th the underground workers were called upon to surrender. Accordingly, Vaman Rao Bidari and
Chennabasappa Ambali got arrested. With Diwakar getting arrested on 9.8.1944, at Hubli the Quit India Movement came to an end in Karnataka. Yet, there are reports regarding stray incidents of the movement till the end of 1944.153

The Samsthanas (native states or minor princely states) of the district, namely Jamakhandi, Aundh and Jath, due to the able leadership of Kaujalagi Srinivas Rao and Kaujalagi Hanumantha Rao as well as the inspiration from the Congress the movement were carried out in a big way.154

When elections were held to the Legislative assembly in 1946, the Congress candidates like S. R. Kanti, Hujare, Dube, etc, got elected. The British left India after granting independence on August 15th 1947 Throughout the Nation the Tri-colour fluttered. On that occasion Kaka Karakhanis hoisted the Tri-colour at the the Radio Station ground in Bijapur and spoke; Sugandhi Murugappa, Communist leader N.K Upadyaya etc. participated in the gathering. Including Bagalkot, at all places in the district, meetings were held, tricolour was hoisted and great enthusiasm prevailed.155

Belgaum District.

In Belgaum the first reaction to the news of Gandhiji’s arrest was huge demonstrations by students by boycotting classes in Belgaum. Shops were also closed. There was a public meeting at Tilakwadi where some student leaders were arrested. There was also a metting in the Maruti temple of Belgaum and Dayananda Aralikatti was arrested. The mob turned unruly and was lathi-charged. Keshvarao Gokhale at Sankeswar, Basappa Argavi at Nandgad and Dr Kadalagikar at Gokak, Venkareddy Hooli at Hooli, Latthe, Bhimrao Potdar, K S Patil, Jeevanrao Yalgi, Krishnarao Yalgi, Anantrao Mandgi Shankar Kamat, Shantinatha Ingle, D L Adhyapak and Shanmukhappa Angadi were arrested in Belgaum.156
Hartal was observed by closing of shops and schools in the district. Schools and colleges remained closed for long, and before the heat of the events of 9th August could cool down, news came of the death of Mahadevbhai Desai. Meetings, processions and the police resorting to lathi charge and bursting of tear gas shells became scenes in all urban centres and even villages. Gangadhar Rao was arrested on 15th August on his return from Bombay. On the 15th of August, Police fired and killed and young man, Satappa Topannavar at Kadivi Shivapur, a village in Parasgad taluk while a procession was on, and he was Karnataka’s first martyr of Quit India movement. There was firing at Bailhongal on 17-8-42 when a batch of workers were arrested and people gathered in hundreds to stop the vehicle taking the arrested and seven persons (Siddappa Sattigeri, Shivalingappa Kotambari, Ramappa Dodwad, Dattu Matade, Mallappa Hireholi, Rachappa Hebbal and Shivappa Belagavi) were killed. On the same day, the police fired on a mob surrounding government offices at Nipani and Shankara Pangire, a young man died. As these public methods of protest were continuing, cutting of telegraph wires and attempts to remove railway line and other forms of sabotage were resorted to.\(^{157}\)

**Underground Batches.**

By the end of August, some kind of district-level underground organisation emerged. Sixteen regular underground batches came to be organised, as listed by Annu Guruji with following places as their centres and persons mentioned as leaders.\(^{158}\)

1. Pachapur and Akkatangerhal : headed by Vamanrao Bidari and Annu Guruji,
2. Hudali : Ramachandra Wadavi;
3. Belgaum: Jayadevarao Kulkarni, Gajanana Yalgi, Nath Pai and Sadashiv Paranjape
4. Sampgaon-Hirebagevadi: Channappa Vali, Chinmayaswamy Onkarnath, Basavannappa Angadi and Bapusaheb Patil
5. Kittur: Jagadevappa Duggani, Gurubhatta Jo.shi and Shivappa Maishetti (of Tigidolli)
7. Sankeshwar: Appanagouda Patil and Shankar Sarwadi
8. Nipani: Anantrao Katkol and Pandit Patankar
9. Bedkihal: Sidgouda Patil and Annaji Bedge
10. Akkol: Appasaheb Kage, Keshavrao and Kamate
12. Hooli-Manoli: Govindareddy Hooli, Panduranga Mirajkar, Channappa Walikar
13. Katkol Viraktaswamy and Basavaraja Divatgi
14. Nandgad: Muralidhara Nayik, Jeevannavar Master and Dattaram Jadhav
15. Raybag: Balappa Nayik Master, Shivappa Ninganure, Gundopant Kulkarni
17. In addition, Gangadhar Dodmani of Gandigawad had a batch of men working mostly with Kittur and Tigdolli group.

The first meeting of the underground workers was held at Pant Balekundri during the last days of August and future plans were chalked out. The railway stations of Suldhal, Raybag, Desur, Gunji and Sulebhavi were burnt. Workers from the district also participated in the burning of railway stations in neighbouring districts of Dharwad, Sangli and Kolhapur. At Sulebhavi the Police who were on guard with guns were disarmed. This was followed by the burning of gramachavadis, school buildings, rest houses and Dak bungalows. Snatching mailbags from runners and also from mail buses was resorted to. The damaging of Post Offices of Nipani, Saundatti, Sampgaon and Neginal, and snatching of mail by stopping buses near Kotbagi, Kabbur, Adimallayya Hill, Nanadi, Mahalunge, Manoli, Katkol and Maradi Matha are notable events. At Manoli guns were snatched from four policemen who guarded the mail bus. On Dec. 16, telegraph lines between all railway stations from Miraj to Harihar were cut as pre-planned. “Nine postal runners were robbed of their mail bags by hooligans in the districts of Dharwad and Belgaum between 14th and 16th October” says one report in Secret Abstract. “In Belgaum district, the political situation has further deteriorated, since the saboteurs have for the present concentrated their energies on acts of incendiarism and further damage to railway
property” (Para 988 S A 1942 October last week). “The house of eight Congressmen were searched at Shahapur” (Para 988). Four railway stations-Tavaragatti, Gunji, Suldhal and Hulkoti (the last one from Dharwad districtl are reported damaged on 31st Oct. (Para 988). In the middle of November, the Secret Abstract reads thus: “In Belgaum district, Saboteurs continue to indulge in destructive acts of every type. The people in general are in full sympathy with hooligans and give them food and shelter” (Para 1035). “Subversive elements in Karnataka, however appear to be extremely active, in spite of imposition of collective fines and military raids designed to the arrest of saboteurs and their satellites. In Belgaum district particularly, heinous crime has assumed serious proportions. Belgaum and Khanapur talukas appear to have gravely affected” (Para 1052-last week of November). A report of early 1943 reads: “Belgaum district continues to be troublesome” (Para 1, 1943). A report of same period (Para 18) speaks of the destruction of village daftars at Ankali, Gujinal, Yadalgud, Suldhal, Panjyanhatti, Godal-Kundargi, Akkatangerhal, Madval, Hudali, Upparatti and Maldinni. A report, later in January, says that “In Belgaum district village recoids are being removed to Taluka Kacheris in order to prevent further damage by saboteurs” (Para 40). This illustrated the fact that more and more village records were being snatched and burnt with a view to prevent collection of revenue. During the last week of January, the report for the whole Bombay State states that “The Civil Disobedience Movement activity during the week was not marked except in the districts of Belgaum and Dharwad Saboteur gangs in Belgaum and Dharwar districts appear to have concentrated on the burning of village chavdis and theft of arms on large scale” (Para 97).

As the movement was gaining momentum, the Government was unable to apprehend many of the leaders. Prizes were announced over the heads of many important workers. Anybody who provided a clue for the arrest of Channappa Wali, Sriranga Kamat, Annu Guruji
or Ramachandra Wadavi was to get a prize of Rs 5,000 each. The prize for the arrest of each one among Vamanrao Bidari, Appanna Gowda Patil, A S Kulkarni and Chinmayswamy Onkarnath was Rs 2,000 each. Prize for the arrest of Veerappa Sutgatti, Sidgowda Patil, Bapusaheb Patil, Jagadevappa Duggani, Shivappa Malsetty and Govindareddy Hooli was Rs 1,000 each. European military, consisting of Australian soldiers was also posted at Gurihosur, Bailhongal, Kittur and Pachapur to assist the police. The usual forms of civil disobedience were also going on. Processions were organised in Belgaum and other centres on the 9th of every month, celebrating ‘Gandhi Day’ to protest against Gandhiji’s arrest on 9th August. Clandestine bulletins were in circulation to overcome press censor ship.\(^{159}\)

With the dawning of summer, collection of land revenue started. Already revenue records had been seized from many village officers. Revenue was collected in a central place for a group of 20 to 30 villages, having safety in mind. At Tolagi, one such centre in Khanapur taluk, the revenue collected from several villages was seized in broad day light on 20-1-1943 and Rs 2,200 confiscated by freedom fighters. Sir Roger Lumley, the Bombay Governor, who was on a visit to Belgaum on that day exclaimed: “Belgaum is acquiring an unenviable reputation of being foremost in maintaining gangs which are financed by Congress funds”. Within four days (on 24-1-1943) a Sub-Inspector camping at Kini village of Belgaum taluk was relieved of his uniform, revolver, a typewriter and a watch, and also guns and uniform of a few of his constable colleagues. In February last week, the jeep of Dy SP, Thornhill, who visited Tidolli was burnt at Basarkod where it had been parked. These were daring acts to show that administration was weak and non-existent and thus insulted the British Government. The furious government imposed a punitive fine of Rs one lakh on Nipani, and on other places like Pachapur, Hebbal, Akkatangerhal, Hudali, Hirebagewadi, Mugutkhan Hubli and Hosur fine.
ranging between Rs 5,000 to 10,000 was levied and it was collected with merciless harassment and persecution. Innocent suspects and relations of the absconding including women and the old were arrested, detained, beaten and tortured. A whole platoon of military was deployed in the early hours of the morning on many villages and houses searched and villagers including women were indiscriminately beaten or tortured to settle score for some act of sabotage nearby or for searching underground leaders. Those in jail had to once face a devastating disease like gastroenteritis and quite few a persons died of it in Belgaum Central Jail.\footnote{160}

“The greater part of the province was quiet during the week. The situation in Karnatak is still unsatisfactory” says the Mumbai Secret Abstract (1943, Para 182, 3rd week of Feb). “Another daring outrage occurred on the night of March 10 when a gang of 25 masked men saboteurs armed with pistols and other lethal weapons assaulted unarmed Police Constables on duty at the Thalakwadi Police Chowki (Belgaum Cantonment) and relieved them of their uniform” (1943, para 201). On March 22, three British Soldiers were relieved of their revolvers by a mob of 300 in Belgaum (1943, para 217). The Police succeeded in arresting the important leaders one by one. Srirang Kamat and Jayadevrao Kulkarni were arrested on 23rd Feb 1943. Fakirgouda Patil Sawatgi was arrested on April 25, Appangouda Patil, Sankeshwar on May 27, Channappa Wali on June 11 at Bangalore, Bapusaheb Patil of Gejpati on June 13, Annu Guruji on June 18 at Bijapur and so on. “There was a slight increase in subversive activity” in Belgaum and Dharward districts, says a report of September last week (Para 791). Shivappa Malshetti of Tisdolli was arrested on Feb 6, 1944.\footnote{161}

A mail runner being relieved of his bag on Jan 31, 1944, burning of toll naka at Kuthali on Feb 3, looting of the village Chavdi at Saundalga and taking away six swords, Rs 550 in cash (revenue collected) and finally setting the Chavadi on fire on Feb 13\textsuperscript{th}, a group of 150 raiding the
Eksamba Village Chavadi and taking away Rs 740 (revenue collected) in Feb 16, destroying a liquor shop at Manakapur on Feb 9, are all incidents reminding one of the movement being continued even in 1944. The District Magistrate ordered the removal of village records to taluk offices and withdrawal of all firearm licences.\(^{162}\)

Soon after the arrest of Shankar Kurtkoti on April 24 and Ramachandra Wadavi on May 1, 1944 in Belgaum, on 5\(^{th}\) May, the Kulkarnis of Sutgatti and Yenagi were relieved of cash by 15 men. Such activities continued in Belgaum district till 28\(^{th}\) July 1944, when Gandhiji issued a statement denouncing sabotage and advising all underground workers to discover themselves. Accordingly, R R Diwakar and Channabasappa Ambli, office bearers of the Central Action Committee surrendered themselves to the Police at Hubli and Bagalkot respectively on 9-8-1944, ending the two-year old movement in Karnataka. A dozen underground leaders including Vamanrao Bidari, Lingappa Karlingannavar, A S Kulkarni and Yamunappa Arabhavi surrendered to the Police on the same day. According to an estimate, 1300 freedom fighters and about 1200 suspects and relations of absconding freedom fighters were arrested in Belgaum and either convicted or detained during these two years (1942-44). But the freedom fighters did not indulge in any type of physical violence despite their holding firearms and other weapons.\(^{163}\)

**Merger of Princely States.**

When it was certain that freedom was to dawn, there was a lot of uncertainty and confusion regarding the future of the princely states. The Deccan States Peoples’ Conference had been organised as early as in 1921 at Pune with N C Kelkar as the reception committee chairman and Raosaheb S B Bapat as president. The third such conference had also met at Belgaum in 1923 and till 1938, 12 such conferences were held. Many States in the Deccan including those in Belgaum area had individual Praja Parishats or Peoples’ Associations affiliated to, and being guided by this body. These individual associations were agitating for
securing various facilities and concessions from their states administration. Later, Indian National Congress itself took up the work being undertaken by this body. In 1943, there was a proposal to merge all Deccan princely states under a single separate administrative province. But the princes did not agree.\textsuperscript{164}

Later, in 1947, when the future of the princes became uncertain, such a proposal was considered acceptable by them. But some young workers of the Deccan States Peoples Conference like Jayadevarao Kulkarni, Vasantrao Patil, Sadashivrao Bhosale and Tarachand Shah vehemently opposed this idea aimed at perpetuating feudal traditions. On the princes signing the Instrument of Accession, the various princely states were merged into the neighbouring districts with whom they had contiguity. Ramdurg, the headquarters of a princely state became a taluk by the merger of the state’s villages into some other earlier British villages and also some neighbouring villages of Kolhapur state. Raybag, the headquarters of a Mahal in Kolhapur State also became the headquarters of a taluk. Clusters of villages from former states, falling within the perimetre of Belgaum were merged in various taluks like Athani or Belgaum.\textsuperscript{165}

**Uttara Kannada District.**

Uttara Kannada did not lag behind in this last phase of the movement despite the fact that the participants in the No-Tax Campaign had suffered for long due to loss of their lands.

In the evening of 9th August, 1942, Timmappa Nayak called a public meeting at Kumta and made a speech protesting against Gandhiji's arrest. He was arrested. Processions and protest meetings were organised in other centres too, like Karwar, Ankola, Bhatkal, Kumta, Gokarn, Bilgi, Sirsi, Siddapur, Yellapur and Haliyal during the course of the whole week from 9\textsuperscript{th} August. In Sirsi, Subrao Samasgikar and Gopal Desai were arrested on the 10\textsuperscript{th} August after a procession. In Siddapur, beginning with 11\textsuperscript{th} August, two people offered satyagraha everyday by
shouting anti-War slogans and courted arrest and this went on for almost a month. As warrants were issued on many prominent leaders; most of them went underground.\textsuperscript{166}

K. G. Joshi of Dharwad was deputed to Uttara Kannada, and he with the help of Dayananda Prabhu (Shirurkar) of Ankola, organized underground work and sabotage. Undermining the war efforts of the British was also aimed at. There were four major groups in the district, engaging themselves in sabotage. One was at Siddapur, led by Nilakantha Yaji, Dr. N.G. Pai and Kannalli Shivarama Hegde. These people were in touch with K.A. Venkataramaiah who was guiding the movement from Bangalore. Shankar Gulvady was another moving spirit. In Sirsi, Gopala Kini, assisted by Raghavendra Bhat, Narayana Mense, Imamsaheb Gaudalli, etc. were engaged in sabotage. After Gopal Kini’s arrest, Krishna Bhat, a polio-ridden young man guided all activities from his house at Sirsi. In Kumta, Sridhar Balgi guided the movement and Govind Kamath, Venkataramana Udadangi, Nagesh Rayas, etc., engaged themselves continuously for nearly a year in various subversive activities in both Kumta and Honavar taluks. Gopal Hegde was bringing out bulletins from a hide-out near Kumta. The burning of Karki bridge on 15-9-1942 was a notable work of this group. They were in regular touch with Dayananda Prabhu, Dayananda Prabhu, was also in touch with the village folk like those of Hichkad, and men like Dayananda Nadkarni (Bankikodla) and Jayaramasharma Devte (Gokarn). There was also a small group at Gokarn, headed by Jayaramasharma Devate and Sadasheva Hosmane. Explosives were secured from Bombay through M. M. Rama Rao and weapons from Goa. But weapons were not used to kill or injure anybody. Cutting of telegraph wire, damaging bridges and roads, sabotaging postal facilities, attacking government offices with explosives, and destroying war materials like wood stocked at forest depots were some of the forms of
subversion. Shantabai Koppikar specially came from Bombay and helped in the traffic in explosives and secret bulletins.\textsuperscript{167}

The Siddapur underground group became active in September and on 9-9-1942 the main bridges on the main roads connecting Siddapur, viz., the Manmane bridge on Sagar road, the Tyagli bridge, the bridge near Nidugod on the Sirsi road and the Mavinagundi bridge were damaged and telegraph wires on all these roads were also cut. All this was done on a single night by four batches. Siddapur town was isolated from other parts of the country. Thirtysix persons later came to be arrested in this connection. In Ankola taluk, the villages around Ankola town which were active during No-Tax Campaign were active this time too. A report in \textit{The Bombay Secret Abstract} (Bombay province) of November 1942 reads thus:

“Ankola taluk in Kanara district also appear to have been considerably affected and instances of extensive damage to telegraph wires and poles are reported. Nadores of Wasarkudrige, Agsoor and Adloor villages in Ankola taluk and Congress workers of Shiroor, Belse and Hichkad are said to be responsible for these activities. They seem determined to cause as much damage as possible to Government property. Their activities are likely to extend in other directions as well and it is possible that quite a number of Police Patels of N adore community will resign”.

In fact the main reason for such a report was some of the notable sabotage activities undertaken by these people, which included burning of sawn timber worth Rs 28,000 (as per Government report) from the Government timber depot at Gangavali on October 1\textsuperscript{st} (1942), burning of a wooden bridge in the Ankola-Kumta road on November 7\textsuperscript{th}, burning of the village \textit{daftar} of Belse, robbing the postal runner of his letter bag near Gokarn, burning of the travellers' bungalow at Tadri, etc. These activities made these villages the subject of Government's wrath
and the police, with the help of the reserve police, surrounded these villages like Hichkad, Kanagil, etc., many number of times, and tortured men and women to secure the arrest of the freedom fighters who were underground. The beating and excesses by the police did not deter patriots from the area. On the 14th of November, the Government forest depot at Hattikeri near Aversa was burnt, causing damage of Rs 13,000. On the 29th of November, nearly 300 youths from Vandige, Surve, Bhasgod, Shetgeri, Maskeri, Kanagila, Hichkad, Kamgi, Sagadgeri, Uluvare, Jug, Belse, Shitur, etc., lead by Dayananda Prabhu and K.G. Joshi overpowered the four armed constables on guard at Uluvare, snatched their guns, and burnt the jungal or device used to cross the Gangavali at the Uluvare ferry. Beeranna Naik of Hichkad demonstrated extraordinary courage in snatching the gun from the police. This event brought another round of police excesses on the villages surrounding Uluvare and warrants were issued on 18 notable leaders from this area. But, subversive activities were continued in the area including the cutting of telegraph lines. Punitive fine of Rs 30,000 was levied for the Gangavali firewood depot burning, and most of it was collected from Gokarn. The police demonstrated such high-handedness that one woman from Gokarn died of terror.168

The post office at Siddapur and the rest houses of Manmane and Harsikatta were set on fire. Telegraph wires were cut more than once around Siddapur. As police repression increased, the leaders, Neelakantha Yaji, Devu Nayak and Shivaram Hegde took shelter at Tadgalale in Sagar taluk. Yaji had resigned his job in the District Board at Karwar and the Police Patel of ltgi in Siddapur taluk had similarly resigned in October 1942. Ordinary forms of civil disobedience like processions, hartals, public meetings, etc. were conducted in all notable towns, especially on the 9th of every month and there were demonstrations to protest against GandhiJi’s arrest on 9th August. Eight persons led by Ganapati Krishna Ganvkar (Agrahara) were arrested at Yellapur on
15-9-1942 for conducting a procession, and later sentenced for six months jail term and a fine of Rs 50 each. The batch of workers from Kumta continued to cut telegraph wires in Kumta and Honavar taluks till July, 1943. Collective punitive fines were levied on Kumta and Honavar towns and villages like Hegde, Handigona and ldgunji. The Kumta workers also snatched the parcel bag from a postal runner on 15-3-1943.  

So numerous were the cases of cutting telegraph wires in December that the Bombay Secret Abstract of December, 1942 states that “In Kanara District the police have effected a number of arrests, but Ankola and parts of Kumta taluk still continue to give trouble”.

The Bhavikeri school was set on fire on 9th December (1942); the school buildings at Halgeri and Kudakeri were burnt on 9th January (1943); the gramachavadi of Islur was burnt on 16th of January; the forest naka at Gundbala was burnt on 18th January; twelve persons, perhaps from Belgaum district, raided the house of one gun licensee at Mangalwada in Haliyal taluk and snatched his gun on 24th of January; a bomb dropped in the post box at Sirsi exploded and caused damage to the post office building on 26th January (1943); the police outpost at Manmane was burnt on 28th January.  

These incidents give an idea of the intensity of the movement in the district. This type of activity continued in full swing despite many arrests till August 1943. At Mangalwada in Haliyal taluk 42 persons were arrested on the 29th of March, 1943. In Sirsi, Sitaram Devki, Narayan Mense, etc., were arrested for burning the gramachavadi and a collective punitive fine of Rs 5,000 was imposed on the town. Guns were snatched from the police in Siddapur police station in June 1943. The movement continued in full swing despite police repression and arrest and harassment of scores of people, either participants in the movement or innocent. One
Pirnekar was tortured by plugging a wooden peg into his anus by the police at the Madangeri rest house. This instance gives an idea of police excesses.\textsuperscript{171}

The \textit{Bombay Secret Abstract}, reports the following notable events of July, 1943:

July 7: Cutting of telegraph wires on the Ankola-Yellapur road near Navgadde and on the Sirsi-Haveri road. July 8: Cutting of telephone wire in Kumta and telegraph wire near Venkapur. July 11: Cutting of telephone wires between Balkur and Idgunji and similar activity between Sirsi and Hanagal; on July 13: between Gunavanti and Idgunji on 14: Haveri and Sirsi on 24 and between Hegde and Kumta on 26. On July 29, the \textit{Gramachavadi} of Narebail was attacked and village records and furniture burnt. On the 30\textsuperscript{th} a postal runner was relieved of the mail bag at Sirsi.

After this, only stray events were reported in September and October 1943; the cutting of telephone wire in February on the SupaLonda road and at Jagalbet in March 1944 are recorded. Later, Dayananda Prabhu (for whose arrest a prize had been announced) and his two colleagues Biranna Naik of Hichkad and Venkataramana Naik of Sagadageri surrendered to the police in 1944 as per Gandhiji’s instructions after the latter’s release. With this movement came to an end in Uttara Kannada.\textsuperscript{172}

Though the struggle of 1942 was carried on by the people without the guidance of recognized leaders, it followed a definite pattern called ‘Karnataka pattern’ to demonstrate devoted selfless and sublime sacrifices by thousands of patriots and proclaimed that the Congress aims have reached the masses. In Bombay Karnataka, leaders arose as if from nowhere and carried on the fight unmindful of the cost and suffering it entailed. Speaking as a whole, there were deeds of amazing courage persistence and heroism.
Thus the importance of Quit India Movement lay in the fact that it was largely generated by youths of all communities in rural and urban areas and the massive response was routed in the nationalist idealism in response to Gandhiji’s call for the last great national upheaval to make Swaraj a reality.

Towards Freedom at Midnight.

Quit India Movement paved the way for historical development leading to the establishment of Responsible Government in India. Political events were fast developing at the national level and Congress workers were observing them in anticipation of the grant of freedom by the British. Lord Wavell, the viceroy of India, ordered the release of all the Congressmen to reduce political deadlock and advocated India’s goal of complete self-government.\textsuperscript{173}

In the meanwhile, I.N.A of Subhash Chandra Bose with the help of enemies of British (Japan and Germany) posed problems to the British and their allies. International tension was mounting on Britain for granting freedom to India. The British called Shimla conference for the conduct of Triparite negotiations between Congress and the Muslim League. M.A.Jinnah pleaded for the formation of two-nations and opposed with tooth and nail the grant of independence to united India. In the General Election of 1945, the labour party led by Clement Atlee came to power in England. Atlee realized the immediate need to grant independence to India. So in March 1946, he despatched to India Cabinet Mission consisting Pathic Lawrence, secretary of state for India, Stafford Cripps, president of the Board of trade and A.V.Alexander, the First Lord of the admiralty.\textsuperscript{175} The Mission held series of meetings with the Congress and Muslim league. In between, the Mission held discussions with the delegates of important native states like Hyderabad, Mysore, Travanlore, Jalpur etc\textsuperscript{176}

At this juncture the elections to the Central Legislative Assemblies were held. The Congress won with an overwhelming majority. The Cabinet Mission proposed the withdrawal of
British Authority from India. M.A.Jinnah demanded partition, Dr.Ambedkar and Jag Jivan Ram sought safeguards of the depressed classes. Sikhs demanded their own separate Khalistan. Thus political deadlock prevailed in India.

On June 16th 1946, the Viceroy proposed to set up an Interim Government. On July 7th 1946, the Congress accepted the Cabinet Mission plan. On the other hand, the Muslim League decided to resort to ‘Direct Action’ (threat of civil war). On August 6th 1946 the Viceroy invited Jawaharlal Nehru to make the proposals for the formation of an Interim Government. Accordingly, Nehru accepted the invitation and offered Jinnah, five Muslim seats in the cabinet. M.A.Jinnah did not agree with him and decided to boycott the oath taking ceremony and the proposed constituent Assembly. Further he also ordered his fellow Muslims to observe ‘Direct Action Day’ on August 16, 1946. Riots broke out in all the important cities including Calcutta, Allahabad, Delhi and Gulbarga. Thousands of Hindus were killed, their women were molested, houses were looted and burnt. A civil war between the two races created communal tensions. All sorts of atrocities were committed on innocent peace loving Hindu-Muslims. It created fresh challenges to the integrity of the nation.

In the meanwhile, Jawaharlal Nehru formed the Interim Government on September 2nd 1946. On the eve of the formation of new government, communal riots broke out in Bombay and Ahmedabad. The viceroy was very eager to clinch the issue between the congress and the Muslim League. Finally the Muslim League agreed to join the Interim Government on October 13th 1946. But the representatives of the league refused to accept the leadership of Jawaharlal Nehru.

Lord Mountbatten assumed the office of Viceroy on March 24th 1947. In a final bid to arrive at an agreement, he invited all party leaders. After a prolonged discussion with the leaders
he came to the conclusion that two independent dominions should be created for transfer of power. Pandit Nehru prevailed upon Gandhiji to agree for the partition to save the country from the ‘communal fire’. Against this background lord Mountbatten submitted proposal to the British Government to divide India for the grant of freedom. On June 6th 1947, the Indian Independence Bill was introduced in the House of Commons for its approval. Despite the painful news of partition of the country, the entire nation was jubilantly and enthusiastically waiting for the great historic movement happen for witnessing the flag hoisting ceremony on the ‘Red Fort’ and singing of national song – Jana gana mana to mark the emergence of free India on 15th August 1947. Under the provisions of Independence Act two nations were created and transfer of power took place on the midnight of 14th August 1947. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru became the First Prime Minister of free India. Thus India won the freedom.
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