BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

Arangasamy Naicker. 1884-1947; land lord; President of the Karaikal Harijana Seva Sangh; popularized Charka, Kadhi and organized reading rooms; extended his helping hand to the labour movement of 1920s and 1930s; editor of the journal called Kudiarasu; elected as the Mayor of Tirounallar commune (Karaikal); hoisted Indian National Flag on municipal office on 15 August, 1947 (Indian Independence Day).

André Selvanadin. 1917-1963; obtained Licence en Droit in Paris; Secretary of town Congress committee during 1948-1950; member of the Conseil du Gouvernement of 1947-48; resigned his post and joined the Pro-merger Committee in October 1948.

Antoine Vallabh Mariadassou. b.1928; educated upto B.A (French) at Colonial College; founder-President of the French India Students’ Congress in 1946; volunteered in the merger movement; offered satyagraha and courted arrest in 1948.

Ansari Doraissamy. 1906-1994; participated in Civil- Disobedience Movement in 1930; one of the founders of the French India Mahajana Party; played an important role in labour movement of 1930s and fought for labour grievances; General Secretary of the French India Students’ Congress in 1947; elected to the Pondicherry Legislative Assembly after independence.

Aurobindo Ghosh. 1872-1950; extremist in Indian National Congress; took refuge at Pondicherry in 1910; started an Ashram in Pondicherry; strong advocate of the concept of double nationality-both French and Indian- for French India.

Bharathan, C. E. 1916-1976; lawyer, notary and also Mayor of Mahe; awarded the title of Chevalier de le Légion d’Honneur by the French government; one of the early activists of the Mahe Youth League; Secretary of Mahe Mahajana Sabha since its inception; member of the Free Mahe Government in 1948; elected to the Pondicherry Legislative Assembly after independence in 1954 and became a Minister in Goubert’s first ministry in Pondicherry; known for his organising capacities.

Bharathidasan. 1891-1964; a Tamil poet in Pondicherry; original name K. Kanakasuburathnam, popularly known by his penname Bharathidasan; influenced by nationalist poet Subramania Bharathi; propagated the need for a change in the social structure; his writings are noted for their banters and satires against existing caste distinctions; editor of the journals Puduvai Murasu and Kouyil; a pro-French activist adhered to the Dravidian ideology.

Bholanath Das, one of the members of the Radical Society at Chandernagore along with Bonomali Pal, Sadhucharan Mukharjee and Satish Sur; started an agitation demanding an equal number of representatives for Chandernagore in the Representative Assembly.
Bouhard, chief of the French Indian Police; initially collaborated with Goubert to suppress all anti-French agitations in 1948; witnessed burning of French India Communist Party headquarters on 14 January 1950; later encouraged the Communists to fight against the Socialists in French India.

Coste – Floret, French Minister for Overseas Territories; witnessed 1948 Municipal elections in French India as an Observer and announced that the election results are in favour of France.

Counouma, P. b. 1908; educated in Pondicherry and France and holder of Licence en Droit; chief of the Hypotheques Department; member of Mahajana Sabha of Mahe; member of the French India Représentative Assemblée; member of the Conseil du Gouvernement in 1947-48; worked closely with Lambert Saravane; opposed the holding of Municipal elections on 24 October 1948; resigned his post and took a stand in favour of complete freedom from French domination over French Indian administration; became an inmate of the Aurobindo Ashram; participated in the liberation struggle of Mahe of 1948; protested against the landing of French troops in Mahe.

Croicchia, served as French Governor in French India between 1936 and 1937; during his tenure French India witnessed political violence and caste war which resulted in the exodus of large number of people from Pondicherry to the adjoining British Indian territory.

Dadala, R.R. b. 1908; the French Inspector of Police from Yanam; resigned his post in protest against the French Indian authorities and joined the pro-merger group in 1951; had close rapport with Sellane Naicker; organised liberation movement on the border of Pondicherry along with refugees during 1951 to 1953; took part in the liberation of Yanam on 13 June 1954.

Daniel Levi, served as the French Ambassador in India from December 1947 to September 1951; strong advocate of right of the French India people to decide their future by means of conducting referendum in French India; played an important role in the signing of Indo-French agreement of 8 June 1948.

Deben Das, leader of the Chandernagore Karma Parishad Party; elected as the Vice-President of the Administrative Council of the Free City of Chandernagore in November 1947; member of French India Représentative Assemblée; President of Municipal Assembly of the Free City of Chandernagore in July 1948; wished to preserve the separate status of Chandernagore and advocated merger of Chandernagore with Indian Union without referendum.

Desbassayns de Richemont, served as French Governor 1825-27; famous for his education and land reforms in French Establishments in India; made considerable effort to change the Establishments into commercial centres.

(Count) Desbassayns de Richemont, son of the former Governor Desbassayns de Richemont; a liberal; elected as Député from French India to the French Chambre des Députés in 1871; elected as Sénateur of French India in 1876;
brought many of the political and social reforms of the Third Republic to French India.

**Deivasigamany.** Notaire in French Indian administration; member of the French Indian *Représentative Assemblée* since its creation in 1947; took charge of Revenue Department in *Conseil du Gouvernement* in September 1947; one of the senior leaders of the French India Socialist Party.

**Durai Munisamy.** b. 1908; first president of the French India Student’s Congress; formed the Youth Congress in November 1947; editor of the journal called *Jeunesse*; often arrested by the French India police for having organized demonstrations against the French India administration.

**Dourassamy, L.J.X.** b. 1908; educated up to matriculation at Calve College in Pondicherry; veteran nationalist, trade unionist and *harijan* welfare worker who took active part in the liberation movement since 1924; offered salt satyagraha in 1930-31; underwent six months imprisonment in 1938, was detained in central jail Pondicherry and later acquitted by Appeal Court.

**Du Tamby,** served as Judge in French colonies; pensioner of French Government; pro-French loyalist and anti-Socialist; founded the pro-French Democratic Party in 1954; sensing that French colonial rule was cracking at the end of 1954, changed his stand and decided to work for the merger of the French settlements with India.

**Emmanuel Adicéam,** born in Pondicherry; left Pondicherry to France for higher studies in 1920s; Professor of History at the *Lycée* of Oran (Algeria); organised Combat group (an anti-fascist resistance group) in French establishments in India in 1944.

**Edouard Goubert.** 1894-1979; Franco-Indian; christened Antoine Joseph Benzamin Goubert; worked in Pondicherry port; served in the French army during World War I; went to Indo-China and returned to Pondicherry in 1919; worked as an accountant in a groundnut oil export company; completed *Licence en droit*; joined the Law department in 1925; promoted as a *Greffier en chef* to Mahé court and as a judge to Chandernagore; involved in active politics since 1936; founded the French India Socialist Party in 1946; dominated French Indian politics from 1946 to 1954; enjoyed French official patronage; famous for his musclemen politics; was made *Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur* in 1950; renounced his European name in 1954 and assumed the name Edouard Goubert Pillai.

**Emile Hecque**, founded the French India Liberal Party in 1870; dominated French Indian politics in the late nineteenth century.

**Escargueil,** French official; visited Pondicherry in August 1949 to assess political situation; later appointed as the Secretary-General of French Embassy in India in 1954; took charge of the French Indian Administration in August 1954; left Pondicherry for France on 31 October handling over charges to Pierre Landy.
François Charles Baron, Governor of French India, the first *Commissaire de la République pour l’Inde Française* (1946-1948); had a romantic affection for India and intellectual interest in Indian philosophy; a staunch Gaullist; introduced administrative reforms of the Fourth Republic in French India; adhered to the policy that French India should serve as a link between France and India; promoted Communists under V. Subbiah and later on Socialists under Goubert as a strategy to safeguard French interest in India, which policy had resulted in the forfeiture of people’s sympathy for the French.

Gallios-Monthbrun, politician; prominent in French Indian politics in the late nineteenth century; conservative and opponent of French Assimilation policy in India; founded Conservative Party in 1871 and fought for French settlers’ interests in French India.

Charles de Gaulle. 1890-1970; French General and Statesman; organized Free France movement during World War II; head of government 1944-6; Architect of the Fifth Republic; President of France 1959-69.

Henri Gaebélé, leading industrialist in French India; dethroned Shanmugam Vellayuda Mudaliar from French Indian politics in 1908 and had uninterrupted sway in Pondicherry politics for another 20 years; safeguarded the French settlers’ interest in French India.

Henrique Duluc, French man and a radical; editor of the Journal *La Politique Coloniale*; elected to the French Assembly from French India in 1898 and1902; opponent of the French assimilation policy in India; advocated association rather than assimilation.

Hendri –Paul Roux, anti-colonialist in post World War II French Empire; served as the French Chargé d’Affaires in New Delhi (1947-1948); promoted friendly relations with Independent India; first French official to advocate the merger of French India with Indian Union; emphasized the desire to build up a French cultural link with India; instrumental to handing over French loges in India to Indian Union on 6 October 1947.

Holger Anderson, former member of the Danish Parliament; one of the neutral observers to French India nominated through International court of justice; visited French India in April 1949 to determine whether it would be possible to hold a referendum in the French possessions.

Jawaharlal Nehru.1889-1964; freedom fighter; first Prime Minister of India and first Minister of External Affairs (1947-64); architect of Non-Aligned Movement; an ardent democrat, internationalist, advocate of scientific method and modern technology; held a high opinion of French culture and French democratic institutions; interested in establishing a cultural centre in Pondicherry so that Pondicherry remains a widow to the French culture; solved the French Indian problem in an amicable manner contradictory to the contemporary world practice; visited Pondicherry in 1936 and 1956.
Jeandin, served as interim Governor of French India in July 1945; during his tenure separate electorates for Europeans and their descendents were abolished and a single list of voters was enforced in French India.

Jules Godin, Paris based lawyer; liberal and a friend of Ponnuthambi Pillai; elected as Député from French India to Paris in 1875; brought more assimilation through the Act of Renonciation of 21st September 1881 for the benevolence of French Indian society.

Justin Godart, Senator, a labour representative, had been sent from France by council of Ministers in 1936 to tour all the French Indian settlements to study the social and labour problems; based on his report a benevolent labour code for French India was passed in April 1937.

Joseph David, Franco-Indian; lawyer and labour leader; dominated French Indian politics in 1920s and 1930s; founded the Franco-Hindu party in 1930 and became the Mayor of Pondicherry in 1935; during his tenure Pondicherry witnessed a large scale political violence.

Joseph Marie Xavéry. 1886-1963; Renonçant; had primary education at Pondicherry and studied law at Paris; veteran advocate, politician and member of the old Conseil Général and Représentative Assemblée; started Mahajana Sabha in 1936; founded Karaikal Merger Congress in 1950; became the President of the United Merger Committee formed in 1954.

Kumaran, I. K. 1903-1999; Iraye Kunnathedattil Kumaran, sympathised with the Civil Disobedience Movement (1930-32); arranged Mahatma Gandhi’s visit to Mahe in 1943; resigned his job as school teacher; became President of Mahe Mahajana Sabha Party in 1937; prime mover of the independence struggle in Mahe after India’s Independence (August 15, 1947); key figure in the Mahe revolt and head of the Free Mahe Government formed after the collapse of French rule in Mahe in 1948; strategist of the final struggle for freedom of Mahe in 1954; elected municipal councillor of Mahe after independence in 1954; became member of the Pondicherry legislative Assembly.

Kamal Ghosh, leader of the National Democratic Front (a communist-led Front); became the Mayor of Chandernagore in 1946; as the Mayor of Chandernagore demanded complete independence from French rule; opposed the French plan which proposed the status of a free city for Chandernagore in 1947.

Kamaraj Nadar. 1903-1975; Secretary, Tamil Nadu Congress Committee, 1936; Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu 1954-63; active participant in the French Indian merger movement; hurled a threat of “Direct Action” in 1948 if the French remained indifferent to the demands of merger; attempted to form a united front for merger in French India; upheld the idea of merger of Pondicherry and Karaikal with Tamil Nadu; President, Indian National Congress, 1963-67.

Karunendra Mudaliar, Renonçant; member of the French India Socialist Party; pro-French loyalist; an ally of Goubert; member of the French India Représentative Assemblée since its creation in 1947 and served as Finance
Minister in *Conseil du Gouvernement*; was made *Chevalier de la Légion d’Honneur* in 1950; became a nationalist and pro-mergerist in 1954; one of the members of the Liberation Government formed by socialists at Nettappakam in 1954.

**Lakash, A.** b. 1893; educated upto French *brevet* at Karaikal; member of French India National Congress; President of the National Liberation Front, Pondicherry; editor and publisher of the French journal *Liberation* and Tamil journal *Puduvai Murasu* till 1954; consistent nationalist who took part in satyagrahas.

**Lakshmanaswamy**, land lord; a member of the *Conseil du Gouvernement*; resigned his post in 1948 and joined the Pondicherry Merger Congress formed by N.V. Rajkumar in 1950.

**Lambert Saravane.** 1880-1979. *Renonçant*; had higher education in Paris; Professor of the *Collège Colonial* at Pondicherry; associated with the trade union movement in 1936-1939; Secretary and chief spokesman of the *Combat* movement in French India; emerged as a mass leader of labour community; elected to the *Conseil de la République* in Paris on 1 November 1946; initially opposed the integration of the French Indian settlements with Indian Union, later changed his stand and strongly advocated merger with India; founded Republican Party in 1951; opposed the idea of conducting referendum in French India; organised liberation movement on the border of Pondicherry along with refugees in 1951-1952; joined the French India Central Merger Congress formed in early 1954 and started a mass campaign in favour of merger of the French Indian settlements with Indian Union.

**Laugenie**, a special political envoy sent by Paris to Pondicherry to observe and make a report on Municipal election held on 29th October 1948; admitted malpractice in the election; concluded that a tripartite negotiation, not referendum, would be a more appropriate solution to the French Indian problem; his report induced pro-mergerists to drop the demand for referendum.

**Lecour**, business man of Nantes; first elected member (through universal Franchaise) from French Establishments in India to the French Constituent Assembly in 1849; secured his victory by a secret alliance with the notables of Pondicherry on the agreement that he would act according to their wishes.

**Lemaire**, Governor of French India, 1904-5; sent back by Shanmuga Vellayuya Mudaliar in a disgraceful manner; his return to the French Indian politics in 1906 marked the decline of Shanmugam’s political regime; elected as *Député* in 1906 in the midst of a caste war between upper-castes and lower-castes in Pondicherry and a war of communalism between Hindus and Muslims in Karaikal.

**Leon Blum**, leader of the Socialist party in France (*Section Française de L’Internationale Ouvrière*); well known in French India for his reforms especially for his labour legislation designed to protect native rights.
Léon Saint Jean. 1900-1965; senior advocate of Karaikal; Secretary of the Congress group in the French India Représentative Assemblée and the Mayor of Tirunallar commune (Karaikal); formed a party called the Pondicherry Merger Congress in 1949 for the purpose of liberating the settlements from French domination; Vice-President of the Karaikal Merger Committee formed in 1950; accused of being a beneficiary of French administration in India and blamed for being over-cautious and over-constitutional; formed the Karaikal United Merger Front in 1954.

Louis Bonvin. Governor of French India, 1938-1945; established political peace in French India and banned communists in 1938 for creating large scale violence in Pondicherry; his policy of caution and co-operation with the British India Government actually saved French settlements from occupation during World War II; signed the controversial Customs Union Agreement—a wartime Franco-Indian Convention concluded on 28 January 1941—with Schomberg, British Consul General in Pondicherry.

Louis Rassendran, land lord and politician in late nineteenth century Pondicherry; leader of the high-caste Christians; associate of Ponnuthambi Pillai Laporte; became the leader of the Renonçants since the death of Ponnuthambi Pillai in 1886; member of the French India Conseil Général and Conseil Local.

Madimchetty Satia. b. 1915 at Yanam; passed Brevet elementaire in 1937 and Capacite en droit in 1943 in Yanam and Pondicherry; led the liberation struggle in 1954 as mayor of Yanam; suspended from mayoralty by the French Government; suffered heavy losses on account of looting by anti-merger elements.

Mangalat Ragavan. b. 1921 at Mahe; journalist and Politician; had French education in Mahe; worked as a journalist for the Malayalam daily, Mathrubhumi, from 1942; correspondent for the Indian Express and the Deccan Herald; Secretary of the Mahe Socialist Party, a branch of the Indian Socialist Party under Jayaprakash Narayan; played a prominent role in the Mahe revolt of 1948; member, Free Mahe Government; sentenced in absentia to 20 years imprisonment by the French court; member, Action Committee and Free Mahe Administrative Council in 1954; writer, poet, translator and scholar in comparative literature with several publications; winner of the Kerala Sahitya Academy Award and several other prizes.

Maurice Gaudart, French man and Son of Maurice Moutet, French Overseas Minister; first member elected from French India to Fourth Republic’s Assemblée de l’Union Française in 1948; his sole aim was to keep French Indian settlements within French Union.

Ménard, served as the Commissaire de la République pour l’Inde Française, 1950-1954; played a prominent role in the most controversial Député election in 1951, in which Goubert was elected by securing 90,053 votes (99%); unearthed financial scandals of the leaders of the French India Socialist Party in 1954; his policy of oppression and suppression was responsible for political
instability and virtually led to the integration of French India settlements with Indian Union.

Mourougassamy Clémentceau, senior leader of the French India Communist Party; worked closely with V. Subbiah; member of the French India Représentative Assemblée.

Muthukumarappa Reddiar. 1909-1968; land lord; educated at Nettappakam and Pondicherry and passed school final in French; became Mayor of Nettappakam commune in 1936; member of the French India Socialist Party; member of the French India Représentative Assemblée; pro-French loyalist; changed his stand later in 1954 and strongly advocated merger with India; member of the Executive Council of Liberation Government at Nettappakam in 1954.

Muthu Pillai. 1901-1955; businessman of Pondicherry; educated upto VI form at Calve College; one of the leaders of the French India Socialist Party; Mayor of Pondicherry, 1946-1954; made Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur in 1950 by the French Government; ally of Goubert; organised the Liberation Government at Nettappakam along with Venkatasubba Reddiar, Muthukumarappa Reddiar, E. Goubert and others in 1954.

Nandagopal, labour leader; active in the trade union movement during 1936-1946 and again during 1954; leader of the Communist Workers’ Federation; arch enemy of the French India Socialist party; became the Mayor of Modeliarpeth commune in 1948; arrested several times and detained in the Central Jail at Pondicherry; released on the eve of the merger in October 1954; lost property due to the rowdyism of pro-French elements.

Pakkirisamy Pillai, Sénateur from French India to the Conseil de la République in 1948; Mayor of Karaikal in 1948; visited Paris and New Delhi as a member of the three men delegation in 1949; as the Mayor of Karaikal passed a resolution on 24 March 1954 in favour of merger of French India with India.

Paramel Shatrugh, Student leader of the Collège Colonial at Pondicherry; elected as the President of the Students’ Congress in August 1948; often assaulted by the toughs of the Socialist Party and French Indian police for agitating against French rule.

Ponnuthambi Pillai Laporte. 1832-1886; belonged to a powerful Vellaja caste-Christian community in Pondicherry; had his education at Petit Séminaire at Pondicherry and got a degree in law; went to Paris passed his higher degree exam at a time when getting degree in Law was considered to be the highest level of education; joined the civil service as an interpreter of police in 1853; promoted in 1856 to the post of interpreter in chief of the Tribunals; emerged as a leader of the Christian community in Pondicherry; entered politics in 1870; pro-assimilationist; brought many social reforms for French Indian society from the Third Republic in association with Jules Godin; has a street in Pondicherry named after him; donated his property for the benevolence of Christians and the French Indian society.
Pierre Alype, Parisian journalist; editor of the Parisian journal France d'outre-mer; anti-assimilationist and traditionalist; entered French Indian politics in 1881; elected as Député of French India, 1881, 1885, 1889 and 1893;

Pierre Gaston, French settler and business man; entered French Indian politics in 1880; conservative, co-politician and successor of Shanmugam Vellayuda Mudaliar; founded Radical Party in 1910.

Purushothama Reddiar, R. L.b.1906 in a modest agricultural family at Irulansandy, in Bahor commune, Pondicherry; studied in Collège Colonial at Pondicherry, qualified for Ingenieur Radio Electricien from Ecole Centrale de T.S.F. de Paris; served in the Pondicherry Wireless Service from 1933 to 1946; took active part in Indian nationalist movement and in social welfare activities like Harijan welfare, labour movement, youth organisations etc., from 1930-1954; had to court imprisonment in 1937-39 for his role in the labour movement in Pondicherry; participated in the ‘Quit India’ Movement from 1942 to 1944 in the Madras regions adjacent to Pondicherry; operated a clandestine broadcasting station to help the extremist nationalist forces of the region maintain contact with the leaders who had gone underground; left his job with the French Government in 1946 and started the French India National Congress; deputed by this organisation to the Meerut and Jaipur Congress Sessions in 1946 and 1947 to represent the French Indian case of liberation; elected as Speaker of the Pondicherry Legislative Assembly in 1955.

Rudulfo Buron Castro, Counsellor of the El-Salvador; one of the neutral observers to French India nominated through International court of justice; visited French India in April 1949 to determine whether it would be possible to hold a referendum in the French possessions.

Sandou Odear, Professor of Tamil at the University of Paris; first Indian candidate successfully contesting for the post of Député from French India to the French Chambere des Députés in 1871.

Sellane Naicker.1884-1965; qualified for Certificate d’etudes Primaires Elementaire in 1896, joined Collège Colonial in 1898 and studied Latin and French; took his degree in law in 1909 and received practical training in the law college at Aix-Marseille in France between 1909 and 1910; practiced as a lawyer in Pondicherry court; nominated as a senior advocate in 1919; honoured with the title Chevalier de la Légion d’Honneur in 1931 for his outstanding contribution in the field of law and administration; leader of the Vannia caste; served as Municipal Councillor from 1919 to 1925; became Mayor of Oulgaret Commune in 1928; elected to the Conseil Général in 1919 and held many designations in the French Indian administration; founded the Popular Party in alliance with Joseph David in 1922; later formed a Franco- Hindu Party in 1928 along with Thomas Aroul and Joseph David; a staunch nationalist; became the leader of the merger movement as the President of the Pondicherry Merger Committee in 1952; founded the Pondicherry National Congress in October 1954 to fight against the opportunist politicians.
Selvarajulu Chettiar. 1901-1938; businessman who flourished as a Contractor, Stevedore, Dubash and leader of Mukkuvar (Fishermen) caste; served in the Financial bureau in the French India administration; a political boss in Pondicherry and a friend of Joseph David; became President of the Pondicherry Conseil Général and Conseil Local; assassinated on 17 December, 1938 by a communist called R. Ramaiyya.

Subramania Bharathi. 1881-1921; famous Tamil journalist, poet, patriot and philosopher; sought refuge from British oppression in Pondicherry in 1908; edited the journal India and spent his time writing brilliant poetry and prose.

Shanmugam Vellayuda Mudaliar. 1845-1908; popularly known as ‘Nadou’; born in a powerful Vellaja community of Pondicherry; had education at Colonial College at Pondicherry; land lord, head of the Hindus and emerged as the prominent politician in French India in the late 19th century; traditionalist and anti-assimilationist; controlled the reins of French Indian politics well over 30 years (1875-1908); the French Government honoured him with the title Chevalier de la Légion d’Honneur for his outstanding contribution in the field of politics and administration in 1894; has a street in Pondicherry named after him and a Siva temple constructed on his grave.

Subbiah. V. 1911-1993 ; labour leader and Communist; had education at Petit Seminaire and College Calve; organized a Youth League in the year 1931 along with other Students Associations of Colonial College and Calve College; organized a strike for the introduction of compulsory primary education in the French language and in the vernacular languages spoken in the respective territories; member of the Indian National Congress during 1930-42; started the Mahajana Sabha in 1937 in Pondicherry; started the French India Communist Party in Pondicherry in 1942; as Secretary of Harijan Siva Singh (1933-42) was responsible for the uplift of villagers, opening of night schools etc.; started the National Democratic Front in 1945; as a Depute of the French Parliament (1946-1948) his political objective was to fight for autonomy within French-Union; started campaigning for total liberation after 1948; Indian Government issued a warrant against him in 1948; re-entered Pondicherry only a week before the de facto transfer of power on 1 November, 1954.

Tézanas du Montcel, French official; served as Inspector General of Colonies, 1946-1954; often visited French Indian settlements and started a pro-French movement in French India; adorned the noble idea of creating a cultural centre in Pondicherry; possessed knowledge of the French Indian problem and was involved throughout the period of negotiations.

Venkatachalapathi Pillai. b. 1903; senior politician and President of the Karaikal Congress; an extremist in the Congress group and pleaded with the Madras Government to provide arms, force and financial support to fight against the henchmen of anti-mergers parties; led the satyagraha movement for merger in 1948; suffered heavy losses in 1954 due to the hostility of the French Government.
Venkatasubba Reddiar. b. 1909, educated in French and Tamil at the French College, Pondicherry; one of the veteran leaders in the cause of Liberation; contributed to the formation of Liberation Government at Nettappakam; as mayor of Nettappakam maintained a liberation force of nearly one thousand people for over six months.

Zivarattinam. b. 1894; senior advocate from Pondicherry; qualified for Baccualaureat and Licence en Droit in Pondicherry and France; elected to the French India delegation for the Provincial Consultative Assembly established in 1943 by Général Charles de Gaulle at Algiers; demanded in Paris, a single list of voters and called for the abolition of the reserved seats or separate electorates for Europeans in 1944; elected to the Assemblée Nationale Constituante in Paris in October 1945; a supporter of the labour movement; involved in the merger movement from 1947 onwards.