CHAPTER - III

CONTRIBUTION OF KARNATAKA TO THE FREEDOM STRUGGLE OF INDIA
The Karnataka State has contributed a lot for the freedom struggle. Kannadigas are very well-known for bravery and courage. They believed and continue to believe that freedom is more valuable than their life. When one speaks of freedom, one is sure to remember Karnataka rulers namely, Kadambas, Hoyasals, Chalukyas of Badami, Vijayanagar kings for their love and dedication for freedom.

Dr. D.C. Sarkar says: "Ever since the growth of Chalukyan dynasty from 6th century, Kannadigas have played a remarkable and memorable role in the history of freedom movement."¹

There are also some evidences of Karnataka kings who ruled in Bihar, Bengal and in other parts of India. The sacrifice made by women is a unique feature of the culture of Karnataka. One can remember, Attimabbe of

¹. Quoted in, Kittura Nadina Ithihasa Mattu Samskruti, (Kannada), Dharwad, Karnataka University, 1976, p-37.
10th century, Akka Mahadevi of 12th century, Gangambika of Vijayanagar, Wanake Obavva, Rani Kittur Channamma, and Belawadi Mallamma. The first woman who revolted against the British rule in India in 1824 was from Karnataka and she was Rani Channamma of Kittur. The 17th century poet Sarvajna of Karnataka has eulogised, in his compositions in triplets called as "Vachanas", Kannada culture and its supremacy. He was called as the 'pole star' of Karnataka culture. He has stated in his compositions that freedom is a must to one and all and that they need not have any sort of bondage. In his "Vachanas" he has very eloquently spoken of bravery, faithfulness of the people of Karnataka. He firmly believed that one must sacrifice for the sake of his country. The following triplet forcefully brings out this:

"Adiya Mundide Swarga, Adiya Hindide Naraka,
Adigaswamedh Phala, Swami Karyakke
Madiyalebuku Sarvajna"2 (Kannada)

2. Ibid., p-40.
A free translation of this would be as under:

"A step forward would be heaven,
A step backward would be hell,
There is a fruit of 'Ashwamedh' for a step,
One must die for the work
Of one's master,
O, Sarvajna.

Karnataka has been known for many years as a land of bravemen. When British power slowly spread all over India, the people of Karnataka could not tolerate the imposition of an alien rule and alien culture. So many decisive battles were waged by bravemen and women of Karnataka like Hyder Ali, Tippu Sultan of Mysore, Rani Channamma of Kittur, Sangolli Rayanna of Bailhongal, Bheema Rao of Mundaragi and many others. So Karnataka as a whole has played a vital role during the freedom struggle in India.

The Bedas and Kodagas have been the foremost fighting races of Karnataka, and have continuously maintained their high reputation. The Bedas of
Halagali fought under the leadership of Balaji Nimbalkar against Britishers. They had the great encouragement from Diwakar Dixit son of Chidambara Dixit of Murgod, but Nimbalkar died in the struggle. During the struggle Jadiyappa, Balappa and 19 other people were hanged. The feelings of the Bedas of Halagali, who faced with an order from East India Company to surrender their arms, are recorded in a popular Kannada folksong, which highlights the brave deeds of the Bedas.

"This freedom to arms is our life".

'Our hands are of fighting men not of the bangle wristed women'.

'Our arms are our very God, the thought of yielding them is mad'.

'For a soldier to weapons is wed, more than the wife beloved'.
"Without these swords and bow we are like the shame faced widow."\(^3\)

"Never to surrender ourselves to servitude and shame whatever the cost and the agony may be."\(^4\)

**ARMED INSURRECTIONS:**

Karnataka has been a land of freedom fighters from the earliest times. When the British power slowly spread over the whole of India in the last part of the 18th century, the people of Karnataka could not tolerate this alien rule. So they decided to wage a revolt. Thus the revolution started, and we call it as 'Armed Insurrection'. Venkatappa Naik of Surpur, Bheema Rao of Mundaragi, Baba Saheb of Nargund, Rani Channamma of Kittur, Rani Channamma of Keladi were a few notable brave men and women who struggled throughout against the British for the freedom of the country.

During the second half of the 18th century, the British slowly advanced their power and very shrewdly carried on their operations at first as vassals of the Moghal Emperor and the people accustomed to leave matters of government, could not notice the fact that they were slowly but steadily being succeeded to the position of slaves under a foreigner. The brave resistance put up by Hyder and Tippu to the British had a deep defence of Mysore.

Hyder, who had defeated the Wadeyars and conquered Mysore, was fed up with the expansion policy of the British. Earlier, he was on friendly terms with the British. But later on, he came to know about the plan of expansion of the British empire in India. In order to curb their desire he tried to become friendly with the Nizam of Hyderabad and the Marathas. But he could not do so, because by that time tactfully the Britishers had taken the support of the Marathas and Nizam. Hyder had a short lived life and died early. Then Tippu, the son of Hyder, continued the fight with the British.
In the year 1792, he fought with the British in order to drive them away. But Tippu was fully defeated and he was put into great trouble. Later on, in the IV Mysore War (1799), Tippu died fighting as a brave man. Thus, the father and the son protested and revolted against the Britishers.

There was revolt throughout Karnataka as it took place in Mysore. Dhondaji a Maratha Sardar of Channagiri, Shimoga district, later came to be known as 'Wagh', which means 'Tiger' in Marathi, was a great revolutionary. He served in the army of Patavardhan of Miraj, Chatrapati of Kolhapur and Tippu of Mysore. Wagh fought against the British after the death of Tippu, by forming a small infantry unit consisting of Bidanur and Shikaripura. He sought the help of Gopal Nayak of Tamil Nadu, Kerala Varma of Malabar and the French in Mahe in 1800, to fight against the British. The British, with the help of Dhondo Pant Gokhale of Peshwe, were ready to face Wagh. In the battle of Londa, Wagh killed Dhondo Pant Gokhale. Later Wagh was killed by the large army headed by Arthur
Wellesley at Konagal. Simultaneously Venkatadri, the Pālegar* (ruler) of Shimoga, was also subjugated by Wellesley. During this period, Venkatapadri, the Pālegar of Aigur of Shimoga district, revolted against the British; but it was suppressed by Wellesley's force. In 1820, armed insurrection took place in Bidar. The Indian princes had been induced to become autocratic and tyrannical, as a result of the policy pursued by the British. This system bore hard on the zamindars and smaller potentates who were under the suzerainty of the former.

In the year 1820 A.D. there were widespread insurrections in Bidar district. The leaders of these outbreaks were Shivalingappa, Tirumal Rao and Megharam. Disturbances arose again in 1857 and a number of places were captured by the insurgents. The contingent troops marched against the insurgents and were in action against them from the 19th March to 24th March, 1852. The rebellion was put down.
Veerappa of Koppal rose in revolt in 1819. Sindagi in Bijapur district which was under the British rule, faced revolts from Diwakar Dixit, Rawji Raste, Balaji Deshpande and Settiyappa Tukkali. They deliberately neglected the British rule and started collecting taxes themselves. But in 1824, Stevenson, then Collector of the British took severe steps and curbed the revolt.

Rani Channamma of Kittur was the first Indian woman who rose against the British even before the uprising of 1857. The credit of hoisting the freedom flag goes to this tiny principality. The courageous spirited warriors like Sardar Gurusiddappa, Balappa, Sangolli Rayanna, Bicchugatti Chanabasappa, Gajaveer and others stood by the Rani to fight against the British. The following were the courageous words of the spirited warriors:

"We will fight till the heads of the British army fall to the ground, we have never eaten your salt and will not foresake you."  

5. Ibid., p-98.
These words exhibit the spirit of freedom of the Kittur people.

"Kittur was a tiny principality in the map of Karnataka, but its role in the freedom struggle was of a memorable one. They had a great sense of freedom." 6

Twelve persons ruled Kittur dynasty for 239 years. Among these Mallasarja was one of the most outstanding figures.

"The people and the rulers of Kittur would never put up with insults and kicks from the invaders but they would fight passionately in order to preserve their independence." 7

Thackeray the then Collector of Dharwad, precipitated the Kittur crisis with the aid of two traitors, Mallappa Shetty and Venkat Rao. But Rani Channamma, the widow of the late Mallasarja and step mother of the

late Shivalingarudrasarja, tried with great patience
to avert the crisis. But in the violent clash of
arms that ensued, Thackeray was killed on 23rd
October, 1824.

British troops came to Kittur from Mysore,
Sholapur, Bombay, Madras and other military centres.
The situation became tense. The Kittur military
forces resisted the British, till the fort was seized.
Then on 3rd December 1824, the Kittur fort was attacked
by the British. The British won and also along with
Channamma, Veeravva and Janakibai close associates of
Channamma were taken as prisoners and imprisoned at
Bailhongal. Till she breathed her last Channamma was
hoping to regain her lost state. The efforts of other
patriots to regain control of Kittur and the value of
Kittur struggle lies in its bold effort to keep the
torch of freedom burning.

The freedom struggle of the people of Kittur
has been praised in the following Kannada 'Lavani',
a popular type of folk song.
"Channavvana Malige Bitta gera,
Sittu Adalu Bahu Bhara,
Channavva tali Shakti Avatara,
Ugrakopa talyalu Bahu bhara,
Tumbida toph Itta Ainura,
Sarabhatti madalenna Bhara Bhara,
Banava bittaronda Ainura,
Benki malegarsida Parameshwara,
Kavali tumba haridu Nettara,
Bhutagalundu degyava dhara dhara." 8

A simple English translation of the above folksong is given below:

The British declaration of war on Kittur, annoyed Rani Channamma. Channamma resisted and fought like Goddess 'Shakti'. It is said that her bullets from the guns numbering five hundred were fired like 'Fire Rain' by Lord Shiva. The streets were flowing with blood. This is how Rani Channamma resisted against the British.

REVOLT IN BADAMI:

In 1841, Narashimh Dattatraya Petkar of Badami revolted against the British and caused great loss to the British army. So he was arrested and was given life imprisonment.

REVOLT IN MYSORE:

There was a revolt in 1830 under the leadership of Sadaramalla of Kumsi, against the corrupt administration of Mysore. He was popularly called as 'Boodi Basappa'. It is said that he belonged to Keladi and he revolted against the tax collectors. The ruler of Tarikeri, Sarja Hanamanthappa, also joined the revolt as he had been dethroned. Later he was imprisoned by Mummadi Krishnaraj Wadeyar, the ruler of Mysore and was hanged to death in the year 1834.

REVOLT IN COORG:

In 1834 again the Britishers removed Chikkaveera Raja of Coorg and took him to Madras. This led to
disturbance in Coorg. Jangam Swamy Aparampara revolted against the Britishers and they installed him in power in 1835. But he did not carry on administration according to the British. He was therefore arrested. Then under the leadership of Kalyanaswamy and Puttabasappa of Kodagu dynasty, the people fought against the British. The flames of revolution spread to Puttur, Sulya, Bellare, Bantwala, Mangalore and Kasargod. The British collector hid in Honnavar. The revolutionaries looted the treasury of Kasargod, Bellare and Bantwal. At this very time the British regiment arrested Puttabasappa and hanged him at Mangalore. It was the same fate for the revolutionary Guddemani Ayyappa of Kodagu.

THE BRAVE HUNTERS OF HALAGALI:

The Bedas of Halagali have been known from the earliest times for their courage, valour and loyalty.

There was a determined and desperate opposition against the Arms Act by them in Halagali, a small town in the Mudhol princely state, now in Bijapur District.
They refused to submit to the order demanding registration and licences for their weapons. They said ...

"Never to surrender ourselves to servitude and shame whatever the cost and the agony may be."\(^9\)

They also knew that the Government was powerful enough to crush them, if they did not obey. But still they resolved to face any calamity rather than give up their rights. Lt.Colonel Malcolm received intimation of the recalcitrances of these Bedas and he ordered Lt.Seton Kerr to go there with cavalry. He also sent a word that all the people should surrender their arms and if they refused they will be treated as rebels. But the Bedas defied this order. So the whole of Halagali town was burnt. Many Bedas lost their lives and also a large number of innocent people.

"On 11th January 1858, 19 people were publicly hanged at Mudhol on a market day. Three days later 6 more were hanged in Halagali."\(^{10}\)

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The leader of the Bedas, Nimbalkar had failed in the fight. Nearly three hundred Bedas were taken as prisoners. This resistance against the British by five hundred Bedas was suppressed by the British force who had gathered from three places.

REVOLT IN SURPUR (GULBARGA DISTRICT):

In the year 1857-58, Venkatappa Naik of Surpur in Gulbarga district, played a vital role among the people who opposed and protested against the illegal policy of the British. Later he joined Nana Sahib Peshwe who also had aimed at driving the British out of India. The neighbouring 'Pälegars' and 'Zamindars' assured him that they would provide support by their army.

Surpur was the centre of conspiracy against the British. Arabs and Rohils had been employed in the Surpur army. The British army started fighting against Venkatappa Naik with the help of one local traitor, who was arrested later on. He was forced to divulge the
names of others. But he refused. He said ....

"I will not disclose names of other rebellions. You may hang me to death, I am not the type of coward. Even if you tie me to the mouth of a gun, it should be your pleasure to see me die." \({}^{11}\)

**BABA SAHEB OF NARGUND (DHARWAD DISTRICT):**

The fight for freedom in Nargund was of a different type. This fight was provoked chiefly by two measures. The Arms Act and the application of Dalhousie's Doctrine of Lapse.

The main reason for Baba Saheb of Nargund to revolt against the British was that ....

"He was not permitted to adopt a successor for the chieftanship. Secondly, he was asked to surrender his arms and ammunition, and thirdly, he was confident

of rallying the support of almost all the Zamindars who had been hit hard by the Inam Commission." 12

Baba Saheb took the reigns of Government into his own hands and he tried hard to improve the condition of his principality and evolved some order out of the chaos. He had a large collection of three thousand volumes, which was destroyed by the 'Vandalism' of the British army which conquered the fort of Nargund. Baba Saheb endeavoured to rally the support of the neighbouring chiefs namely Bheemarao of Mundaragi, Kenchanagouda of Hammagi, the Desais of Govankoppa and Soratur and many others, in his attempt to raise an insurrection. Secret meetings were held and it was decided that all chiefs should raise the stand of revolt simultaneously. The Government of course, had their suspicions about the conduct of Baba Saheb and ordered the Mamlatadar of Navalgunj to watch his movements and activities.

12. Ibid., p-260.
"It was on the 29th May, British army under Colonel Malcolm arrived at Nargund. Baba Saheb sought help from Bheemrao of Mundaragi. Meanwhile Bheemrao was fighting against the British at Koppal and replied that he would help him shortly. But the disciplined and well equipped British army won and the fort of Nargund was captured. Baba Saheb with a few of his trusted followers accepted defeat."

The British sent the army to search for them in all directions. A traitor informed the British that Baba Saheb and a small number of followers were in the forest of Torangal. The Britishers arrested them and they were brought to Belgaum and were condemned to death by a judicial tribunal on 12th June 1858. Baba Saheb ended his life on the gallows at Belgaum.

MUNDARAGI BHEEMARAO:

The indomitable fighter Bheemrao showed at an early age that he had inherited the daring tenacity of

13. Ibid., p-265.
his ancestors. Also he was a bold hunter and an accurate marksman. The British officers went on a search. His father was the judge under the Peshwas. Bheema Rao's education and abilities had earned him the post of a Tahasildar. He worked in Harapanahalli and Bellary and he felt that he could not continue as an officer under the British. The events in northern India in May, June and July 1857, prompted him to action, and he began to collect arms and ammunitions.

"Thomas, the Superintendent of Police in Dharwad, wrote to the Magistrate of Dharwad as early as 10th May, 1857 and again in August 1857, that Bheemarao 'represented a dangerous character likely to give trouble in unsettled times'. The Magistrate promptly summoned Bheemarao and instituted inquiries." 14

Bheemarao was warned against the consequences of disloyalty and so a strict watch was kept upon his movements. He managed to make friends with Kenchanganagouda of Hammagi, the Desai of Dumbal and Sarnadagouda of Govankoppa and also Desai of Surpur. Under the

Influence of Bheemarao and the chief of Nargund, a network of conspiracy was spread throughout Dharwad district on 18-8-1857.

"Bheemarao started his fight chiefly because he felt that it was his duty to serve the cause of freedom. A stout hearted and valiant fighter, he might have given much more trouble if the traitors had not helped the enemy to capture the fort, or if he had chosen to go out into open ground, where his military abilities and tactics had full play. The idea of surrender or flight never came to him and he offered the final sacrifice for the cause of freedom. About 127 prisoners were tried under Martial Law and 77 of them were shot by musketry, 40 were sentenced for 14 years' imprisonment and 10 were given one year imprisonment. Bheemarao was sentenced to be blown away from a gun, but the sentence was later remitted."  

BIRTH OF NATIONAL CONSCIENCE:

Indians realised that it was impossible to drive the Britishers out of India through armed resistance.

15. Ibid., p-272.
The social and religious reformation of 19th century brought the National awakening among the Indians. Then the reformers awakened the mass to go against the Britishers' cunning administration.

"Lord Lytton's administration and the famine and natural calamities made the people to revolt against the British."16

The Indian National Congress came into existence in 1885.

"The first Bombay Congress Session was represented by Sir Narayan Rao Chandavarkar from Karwar, Kashinath-Rao Telang, Sadashiv Rao Bhide of Belgaum, Kolachalum from Bellary, Venkata Rao, Modaliyar and others."17

The northern Karnataka comprising the districts of Belgaum, Bijapur, Dharwad and Karwar was part of

16. Palaksha, Karnatakaada Ithihasa Mattu Samskruti, (From the earliest to the present), (Kannada), Part-I, Tiptur, Shashi Prakashan, p-343.
Bombay province. The paper *Kesari* published by Tilak contained his speeches and inspired the people of Karnataka. Later, Tilak started the Home Rule Movement. The foreign goods were publicly burnt down in Belgaum, Navalgund, Hanagal and Dharwad and in other places. Many of the prominent Kannadigas such as Alur Venkat Rao, Mudaveedu Krishna Rao, Sakri Balacharya and others travelled throughout Karnataka and encouraged the people to participate in the Swadeshi Movement. Many of the volunteers of this movement were imprisoned.

"The Vangbangh (Partition of Bengal) Movement spread rapidly throughout India due to the division of Bengal in 1905. Then Tilak visited Karnataka and put forth his four principles which were: 'Swadeshi Prasar', 'Videshi Bahiskar', 'National Education' and 'Demand for Swaraj'. Deshpande Gangadhar Rao of Belgaum, Koujalagi Shrinivas Rao of Bijapur, worked as his trustworthy followers. Gangadhar Rao Deshpande by his roaring lecture became famous throughout Karnataka and was called as 'Karnataka Shimha' (Lion of Karnataka). Like him two other leaders were also given such titles and they were Lala Lajpat Rai,
The Literary works of Alur Venkat Rao, Galaganath, B. Venkatacharya, K. Vasudevacharya, Subodh Ramrao and Shantakavi (Sakri Balachar) greatly inspired Kannadigas. The role played by Karnataka Sabha founded by Alur Venkata Rao in 1916 in Dharwad, was remarkable. The Brahmo Samaj, the Arya Samaj, the Theosophical Society, the Ramakrishna Mission had their own influence in Karnataka.

"Revolutionary organisations were also established in Karnataka as in Maharashtra, Bengal and Punjab. Govindrao Yalagi of Belgaum was the main leader. He had the support of Gangadhar Rao Deshpande. The training in arms and the use of ammunitions were taught to the youths in the Mazzini Club which was established by Yalagi. In Belgaum the match factory was situated in the Patil street in the building of Ushathai Gogate Girls High School.

18. Ibid.
where also bomb was being prepared. The revolutionary centre in Goa had the contact with Karnataka with the revolutionaries like Veera Sawarkar, Senapati Bapat of Maharashtra, Barindra Ghosh (the brother of Yogi Aurobindo Ghosh of Bengal). The supporter of Yalagi, Hanumanthrao Deshpande was imprisoned for many days, in connection with the bombs and pistols. Gunda Bhat Joshi of Guledgudd was also imprisoned for a year. Bheemarao Bevur and Dr. Handur were sentenced to rigorous imprisonment. Ganapule was in the revolutionary organisation. All these brave Kannadigas were responsible for bringing up the name of Karnataka in the history of Indian Revolution.19

Dr. N. S. Hardikar established Hindustani Seva Dal in Hubli. Within a short span of time, it was developed as an All India Organisation and Bagalkot also being its centre. All the Seva Dal volunteers did a good service in all the movements. Gangadhar Rao Deshpande established a branch of Charaka Sangh at Bangalore, and he became the first 'Sanchalak' of the Sangh. Gandhiji's ideas

19. Ibid.
and principles of 'Charaka' were propagated for the people through the 'Charaka Sangh'.

"Nearly 400 representatives from Karnataka attended the Congress Session in Nagapur and they demanded a separate Regional Congress Committee and they succeeded in it. 'Karnataka Simha' Gangadhar Rao Deshpande was its first President." 20

Later on, the freedom movement spread rapidly in Karnataka. Students boycotted classes and joined the movement. Burning of foreign goods, protest meetings and processions were held. Many Kannadigas had to lose their life and had to be imprisoned.

IMPACT OF GANDHIJI IN KARNATAKA:

The influence of Gandhiji in the freedom movement of Karnataka totally changed the scene in the Indian National Movement.

20. Ibid.
"Gandhiji in the year 1920, travelled throughout Karnataka and he propagated the Non-cooperation movement, and collected money for Tilak's 'Swaraj Fund'. The Kannadigas contributed whole heartedly. The women folk gave away their ornaments. Many Kannadigas resigned their government jobs. The lawyers also boycotted their practice and the students joined the freedom movement. In Karnataka many national schools and colleges were established. Many foreign cloth centres were burnt down and picketing of liquor shops was in great progress. Three people were injured and 23 were punished. Deshpande Gangadhar Rao and Diwakar Rangarao were given punishment for six months and one year respectively, because they had betrayed the Britishers. Nearly 60 Kannadigas were punished for participating in Non-cooperation movement. In this movement the people who participated were more from Belgaum than in other parts of Karnataka."  

21. Ibid.
"The 39th Congress Session was held in 1924 in Belgaum under the Presidentship of Gandhiji. It was a memorable one. This was the first and the only session where Gandhiji was the President. Many religious and political conferences were held. Kannad Sadashivrao, Hardekar Manjappa and others also participated. Gandhiji through his speeches awakened the mass for the unity of the country, abolition of untouchability, propagation of Khadi, Gramodhyoga and non-violence."\textsuperscript{22}

At this Belgaum Congress Session, the Karnataka people gave a song 'Udayavagali Namma Chaluva Kannada Nadu', instead of 'Vande Mataram', is symbolic of their aspirations to have an united Karnataka State.

The theme of the song is as follows:

"Arise, awake, oh beautiful land of Karnataka,
'A treasure of love, strength and an abode of honour'.

\textsuperscript{22} Palaksha, \textit{Op.Cit.}, p-344.
This is the land of Renuka, the mother of the warrior,  
and of great Hanuman who flew over the sea;  
The land of many kings and of the gallant race, of those  
heroes who shed lustre and light to all.  
Men of Science and Mitakshara, the law-giver, Jakkana,  
the sculptor, who played with stones.  
And preachers and teachers all had their homes here.  
A granary and greenary of the goddess of victory here.  
The holy waters of the Krishna and Bheema, of the Kaveri  
and the Godavari purify this land;  
For ever sing the poets and seers eloquently of thee.  
The abode of Veeranarayana of Gadag, the inspirer.  

ANKOLA SATYAGRAHI  

In April 1930, Gandhiji started the Dandi March,  
in protest against on salt. This march included many  
volunteers from Hubli and Belgaum, where Mylar  
Mahadevappa of Motebennur also took part. Because of  

23. Muttanna, I.M., History of Karnataka: History,  
Administration and Culture. Mysore, Usha Printers,  
1962, p-preface-vi.
tax on salt, the people at Ankola broke the rule and prepared salt. The leaders, who were involved, were, Mylar Mahadevappa, Karnad Sadashivrao, N.S.Hardikar, R.R.Diwakar, Talacherikar, Ramakrishna Kamath and others. Many people died on account of the lathi charge. This movement first started in the northern parts of Karnataka. Then it spread to the southern part also. The leaders of this movement were Gangadhar Rao Deshpande of Belgaum, Kadapa Raghavendra Rao, Shrinivasrao Koujalagi of Bijapur, Hardekar Manjappa, B.Shivamurthy Shastri, Karnad Sadashiv Rao, D.P.Karmarkar, R.R.Diwakar, Timmappa and many others.

CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE MOVEMENT:

"The people of Karnataka participated in Civil Disobedience Movement which was started by Gandhiji in the year 1930 and thus the Karnataka State was being called by the name 'Gandhi Province'. Then, in Bombay the British Governor submitted his report stating that, Karnataka was ahead in its movement than
in Gujarat. Deshpande Gangadharrao was the first person of Dandi Satyagrah (6th April) to be arrested in the whole country."²⁴

"The No Tax Movement was carried out under the leadership of Ranga Rao Diwakar, D.P.Karmakar in Ankola, Sirsi and Siddapur talukas of Karwar district and Veeranagouda Patil of Hirekerur taluk in Dharwad district. This movement spread more rapidly in Karnataka compared to other parts of the country. Nearly 3000 people of Karnataka were imprisoned in this movement."²⁵

ESTABLISHMENT OF KARNATAK PRADESH CONGRESS COMMITTEE:

After the acceptance of Provincial division on the basis of language, the Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee came into existence.

²⁵ Ibid.
"It first opened its office at Gadag, then at Bangalore, Mysore, Tumkur and Kadur etc. The programmes issued by this Congress Committee were carried on with speed by Venkata Krishnayya of Mysore, Tagadur Ramachandrarao and others. S.S.Setlur (retired High Court Judge) assumed office as the President of Bangalore Congress Committee and improved its work. In 1935, the Congress stopped its satyagrah." 

MOVEMENT IN HYDERABAD KARNATAKA:

In 1920, Pandit Taranath of Hamdard National School at Raichur in the Hyderabad Karnataka area was banished by the Nizam, who was on the side of the Britishers. Hyderabad Karnataka Parishad was formed under the leadership of Shrinivas in 1934 and it started the Satyagrah. Later in 1938, this Parishad joined the Hyderabad Congress party and it continued its satyagrah under the leadership of Janardhan Desai.

Under his Presidentship itself, the Bidar Congress session was held and it gave a new dimension to the freedom struggle. In 1942-43, the struggle continued in North Karnataka and nearly 7000 volunteers were arrested. Among them were Swami Ramanand, Vishwanath Mudnal and others. In the year 1939 when World War-II broke out the British wanted Indians to support them in the war efforts. But, the Provincial Congress Governments established under the Government of India Act, 1935, resigned and many people revolted and were imprisoned.

QUIT INDIA MOVEMENT:

In 1942, Gandhiji was arrested because of the Quit India Movement. At the same time, this movement in Bombay Karnataka area was started under the leadership of Chanabasappa Ambli of Bijapur, Ranganath Diwakar, D.P.Karmarkar and others. This movement was very violent in Bijapur, Dharwad, Belgaum, Bangalore and Mysore Districts. The students boycotted the classes and started movements like, cutting the telephone wires, removing the fish plates of railway
lines, burning of public and government buildings. Thousands of people were arrested and imprisoned and hundreds were gunned down by the British. Mylar Mahadevappa was also one among them.

"In Quit India Movement the fighters snatched away two revolvers from the police officers and 85 rifles from the police. They burnt 19 railway stations, 34 government inspection Bungalows, 250 village chavadis, 201 village daftars (documents), 62 arrack shops and police station was completely burnt to ashes."

THE GREAT PEOPLE OF KODAGU AND THEIR MOVEMENT

The Kodagu Zamindar Association leaders were P.T.Kushalappa, Nidte Subbannayya, I.P.Belliappa, C.N.Venkatayya, K.C.Kurumbayya. This Association also joined the National Movement. The national leaders of Karnataka, like Gangadharrao Deshpande,

Hanumanthrao Koujalagi, Karnad Sadashivarao, R.R.Diwakar, Dr.N.S.Hardikar had contacts with leaders of this Zamindar Association. These joined the Civil Disobedience Movement in 1930. In 1932, students and farmers participated in this movement and were jailed.

"The National paper called 'Kodagu', weekly, was prohibited. Due to this prohibition another cyclostyled hand bill called 'Veera Bharathi' had been started. The main motto of this paper was to educate the people socially and economically. The articles published in this paper by Rohini about the Jallianwala Bagh tragedy annoyed the British Chief Commissioner. Editor Belliyappa was forced to apologize. But he refused. The British Chief Commissioner threatened the Board of Directors of the paper. The Board upheld the view of the editor and so the British Chief Commissioner had to keep quiet." 28

Under the leadership of Karnad Sadashivarao, the Non-cooperation movement started in Karnataka. The

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propagation of Khadi and the prohibition of liquor and other such constructive works started.

"News papers such as 'Swadeshābhiman', edited by S.V.Kamath and 'Navayug', edited by A.B.Shettar, then 'Kanteerava', 'Rastrabandhu', 'Prabhat' etc. etc., educated the people at large and developed political consciousness."

In 1930-31 Satyagrah nearly 98 people, who were imprisoned, were given the honorary certificates under the Presidentship of Biddanda Subbayya, a staunch nationalist. The main theme of his speech to the honoured persons, was:

"I welcome the people who had struggled in the freedom movement for a year without any rest and propagating the 'Divya Sandesh' (Call) of Gandhiji. None of you should surrender to the police. You have brought fame to Kodagu by doing the work assigned to

29. Ibid., p-377.
you without any fear. You have shown to the world that the people of Kodagu are very brave. It is not possible for us to grant you gifts like Jahagir, pensions. The only thing which we can give you is; to support you all in the freedom struggle and to carry on your message with great respect and honour. This certificate of honour itself is the Jahagir, gift and pension which we humbly grant to you. Let the Almighty give you a long life."^^30

THE ISSUR TRAGEDY IN SHIMOGA DISTRICT:

The incident, that took place in Issur, in the Mysore princely state, was a significant one during the Quit India Movement. This movement was more rigorous in Issur in Shimoga district, than compared to the other parts of Mysore State. The people of Issur joined the Movement and responded to the call 'Do or Die' given by Mahatma Gandhi.

30. Ibid., pp.320-21.
"The youths who had wore the Gandhi caps hoisted the tricolour flag on the Veerabhadreshwar temple. The 'daftars' (Government records) from Patel and from Shanabhagas were snatched by the youths and they were made to stand on one leg. They also displayed placards, warning irresponsible officers of the government not to enter the village. Such placards were hung at the entrance of the village."\textsuperscript{31}

There was a severe fight between the people and the officers. Unarmed people were punished brutally by the police. Many of them were hanged in the Central Jail in Bangalore. Among them were Gurappa, Mallappa, Halappa, Suryanarayanacharya, Shankrappa and others. Thus, the people of Issur were humiliated by the British. Even the British tortured those who had taken part in the national movement.

\textsuperscript{31} Jayadev Kulkarni, \textit{Op.Cit.}
On 9th August 1944, the underground leaders namely, Diwakar Rangarao, Bidari Vamanrao suddenly appeared on the scene, by the advice of Gandhiji and they were also arrested. The movement continued for further two years, although it had stopped in other parts of India. After 3 years, India got her Independence. The dream was fulfilled at last by our freedom fighters. The contribution of Karnataka was great to the freedom struggle of India.