

A brief life Sketch of Freedom Fighter Sardar Kulbir Singh, former M.L.A. and a brother of Martyr Bhagat Singh

He was born at Lahore, but was brought up at Banga village under the fond care of his grandfather, where he did his primary, shifting to Lahore for his Middle standard education at D.A.V. High School. His education was cut short in 1929, when, keeping up his family tradition, he got actively involved in assisting revolutionaries in their underground activities, following the epoch making by a nation-wide patriotic – revolutionary upsurge.

These event climaxed on 23.3.1931, whereupon the martyrdom of his elder brother S. Bhagat Singh, along with Martyrs Sukhdev and Raj Guru, he got directly involved in the activities of Naujwan Bharat Sabha, a pet project of his departed brother.

In 1935, when the revolutionaries decided to throw a spanner in the ceremonial grand welcome to George V, the Emperor by large-scale lighting extravaganza, the young revolutionary was entrusted the task of sabotaging the electricity supply at Lyallpur. Although he was arrested in this connection and tried also but no one came forward to depose against him, testifying to the respect enjoyed by the revolutionaries among the people at large. In the same year he was elected as a member of the District Board, Lyallpur winning by a big margin. Also he got closely associated with SEHR GUL KHAN, a link which proved to be life-lasting.

This was followed by his becoming General Secretary of Punjab Kisan Sabha and also a member of Kisan agitations to success. But then, the ruler charged him under Defence of India Rules in 1939 and sent to jail for 6 months. That was not all; he and his younger brother Kultar were both arrested on 26th June 1940 and kept in confinement indefinitely, along with numerous Socialists – Communists where in concert with their comrades like Dhanwantri Ram Krishan Bharolian, Tika Ram Sukhan and others they went on a hunger strike demanding humane-dignified treatment political prisoners like them. It lasted for 63 days, ultimately forcing the government to concede their just demands. His health deteriorated to the extent that made the jail authorities lose their calm and he had to be sent to Maya Hospital for

treatment. As a result of this struggle, all such political prisoners from all over India were confined in one camp at Deoli in Rajasthan, including Jai Parkash Narain, Seth Danodar Das, Dr Z.A. Ahmed, S.A. Dange, Dr K.M. Ashraf. This turned Deolali camp into a storm center of radical ideologies.

After some time, the detainees at the Camp decided to activate the Indian masses to launch a struggle for independence in view of the Japanese advance towards India after her joining the war. This could be done, only if they were sent back to their respective Provinces, where they could escape from the jails to mobilize the people. A hunger strike was started for the fulfillment of this demand involving around 500 detainees which lasted 32 days. Again his health deteriorated to the extent that he had again to be got admitted to Mayo Hospital at Lahore. Anticipating grave danger to his life, the Doctors advised the government to release him on health grounds, following which he was released in 1944, though yet kept under close police surveillance. He availed of this opportunity to edit the weekly organ of Congress Socialist party "The Kashmir Sansar", wherein the article of his jailed comrades were published.

It was in consequence of the aforesaid plans of revolutionaries to escape from jails, that Dr Ram Manohar Lohia, and Shri Jai Parkash Narain were able to escape from Hazari Bagh jail to take part in 'Quit India Movement'.

Once again he was arrested in 1944 after a brief respite of 6 months and kept in confinement till 1946. It was only by approaching the Lahore High Court, in the wake of Maulana Azad - Khizar Hayat (Congress - Unionist Party Coalition) agreement, Punjab Governor had no choice except releasing him and his brother Kultar. Bibi Amar Kaur, their elder sister too had been kept under detention. After his release from the jail, he strived his best to ensure repatriation of S. Ajit Singh his uncle from a detention camp in Germany, taking an active part also in Kisan Sabha activities, while trying to get his sister released from captivity.

S. Ajit Singh left this world on 15 August 1947, the day India became free, being unable to bear the agony of witnessing India torn up between Pakistan and Bharat which he viewed as the victory of Communal force over the secular. Bloodshed and large-scale cross

border migration of millions of people played havoc with the lives of hapless populace on both the sides of the border. Sardar Kulbir Singh, along with his brothers and sister threw themselves whole-heartedly in the process of rehabilitation of the displaced people, in an effort to soften the impact of the big blow to their way of life.

In 1948, he was made 'G.O.C.' of Punjab Congress Sewa Dal. Since he continued to be committed to the peoples' liberation he continued to be shadowed by C.I.D. even after independence.

During 1962-67 he represented Ferozepur Constituency in Punjab Vidhan Sabha. He held a firm belief that the younger generation must study the past to imbibe the patriotic spirit which was necessary if they were to bring about a revolution in the country. With this object in view he set-up "All India Bhagat Singh Memorial Trust", with its headquarters at 5L/44, N.I.T. Faridabad. Unfortunately his dream of establishing a 'Shahid Bhagat Singh College at Faridabad remained unfulfilled despite his untiring efforts to persuade the Haryana Government to allot the land for the project.

He was also the chief organizer of Haryana Unit of All India Freedom Fighters' "Samman Samiti", and has been President of Faridabad Branch of Indian Council of World Affairs.

Later part of his life was devoted to the collection of material concerning the history of revolutionary movements. Of this, some documents relate to Martyr Bhagat Singh. He dedicated himself to the research and study in this project.

During the recent past he visited Pakistan to marshal some historical manuscripts.

While he was set to compile a volume on "Revolutionary Movements" Significance and Sardar Ajit Singh", his life was cut short leaving his dream venture midway. It ought to be taken to its logical end by his well wishers and those who cherish the revolutionary traditions. All through his life, he remained wedded to the ideal of Socialism, and Bhagat Singh dream of putting an end to exploitation of man by man.
