



S. Ajit Singh

BURIED ALIVE

AUTOBIOGRAPHY

*The visionary &
revolutionary thinker
Uncle to Shaheed
Bhagat Singh*

Introduction

Pro. Pramod Kumar Srivastav

“Autobiographical Note by Sardar Ajit Singh (Uncle of Shahide-aazam Bhagat Singh) written in May 1947, just few days before his demise which he proposed to be named as “Buried Alive”. This is a narration of his forty years of struggle against British Imperialism.

Prof. Pramod Kumar Srivastava (on 7 October 1952 at Ballia) Renowned historian and a pioneer in the field of oral history. Doctorate on “American Imperialism in Philippines” (1983), and D.Lit. on the “Struggle for Existence of British Colonies of South Pacific Islands, Fiji Islands, Solomon Islands, Islands of New Hebrides and Tonga” (1990) . Retired as Head , Lucknow University in 201. A prolific writer and a keen researcher, Prof. Pramod Kumar Srivastava has to his credit several research papers and articles on the freedom movement. His publications include among others, Hunger Strike in Andaman: Repression and Resistance of Transported Prisoners in Cellular Jail, 12 May-26 June 1933; Mahatma Betrayed; Destination Oceania; Kalapani (Hindi and Oriya); and Shiv Verma – Associate of Bhagat Singh.

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S. AJIT SINGH'S AUTOBIOGRAPHY
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Sardar Ajit Singh was born on February 23, 1881, and was the younger brother of Sardar Kishan Singh and the uncle of Shaheed Bhagat Singh, the visionary and revolutionary thinker. In 1905, Ajit Singh and his brother Kishan Singh worked among the people in famine-stricken areas like Barar (Madhya Pradesh) and Ahmedabad, as well as flood and earthquake-affected areas like Srinagar and Kangra. Ajit Singh was arrested and deported to Myanmar's Mandalay jail in 1907 for leading the Pagri Sambhal Jatta, a peasant agitation. Singh, along with other Congress leaders, rallied peasants in opposition to two new colonial laws, the Colonisation Act, and the DoabBari Act. Instead of providing land ownership, these laws reduced peasants to the status of sharecroppers. Lord Morley, the then Secretary of State for India, told the British Parliament that in all, 33 meetings were held in Punjab, of which Ajit Singh had addressed 19 as the main speaker. Ajit Singh was a powerful orator who used to hold the audience spellbound. One of his speeches, delivered on April 21, 1907, at Rawalpindi, was described as 'highly seditious' by British officials and a case under Section 124-A (sedition) of the IPC was registered against him. Lord Kitchener, Commander-in-chief of the British forces in India, apprehended a revolt in the forces. Ultimately, the laws were revoked in May 1907, but Lala Lajpat Rai, also a speaker at some of these meetings, was arrested on May 9 and Ajit Singh on June 2. Both were deported to the Mandalay prison in Burma for six months under Regulation III of 1818. Both were released on November 11, 1907. After being released from Mandalay prison, Ajit Singh attended the Congress session in Surat and went on to found the Bharat Mata Society. Ajit Singh moved to Brazil in 1913 and formed close ties with the Ghadar Party. In 1932, he returned to Europe. One of Singh's most significant achievements in Italy was the establishment of Azad Hind Fauj.

When word of Singh's deteriorating health reached India, his colleagues put pressure on Jawaharlal Nehru to release him. The efforts were fruitful. Ajit Singh arrived in London in 1946 and then returned to Karachi. However, the increasing communal violence on the eve of partition broke his heart. With his health deteriorating, he was transferred to the hill station of Dalhousie, where he died on August 15, 1947, the day India gained independence.

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Introduction

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INTRODUCTION

Divided into six chapters, Chapter -1: Ancestry and Early Life; Chapter- 2: In politics and Deportation; Chapter-3: In Persia; Chapter-4: In Europe; Chapter-5: In South America; and Finally Chapter- 6: In Europe Again; followed by references, “An Autobiography of Sardar Ajit Singh (Buried Alive) published by *Pravasi Prem ublishing Pvt. Limited*, is a significant work of the history of Indian Revolutionaries including Sardar Ajit Singh in Persia, Europe and South America, from 1907 to 1945. The entire life of Sardar Ajit Singh was dedicated not to achieve martyrdom for promoting his own glory of martyrdom among coming generations but to achieve freedom for his motherland from alien colonial British rule and freedom from exploitation of Indian human and natural resources alone. The rich experiences of Sardar Ajit Singh’s ancestors in British ruled Punjab under East India Company and his own experiences during British Colonial Raj, in Persia during Persian revolution of 1906, in Europe and South America and Brazil are enlightening enough for the coming younger generations of India. His encounters with Indian and other revolutionaries in Persia, Russia and Europe are eye opener. The tortures suffered by him in Europe after the end of Second World War are no less tormenting.

Sardar Ajit Singh was the uncle of Sardar Bhagat Singh, the great Indian Martyr, who was convicted for life imprisonment to the penal settlement of Andaman Islands along with Batukeshwar Dutta, by the British Colonial government for throwing harmless bombs in Central Assembly, New Delhi, on April 8, 1929; and was convicted and hanged on 23 March 1931, along with Rajguru and Sukhdev, for assassinating Police Assistant Superintendent John

Saunders of Lahore on December 17, 1927 to avenge the fatal police assault of Lala Lajpat Rai, a foremost political leader of India on November 17, 1927, while Lala Lajpat Rai was protesting against Simon Commission in Lahore.

Sardar Ajit Singh, the uncle of Sardar Bhagat Singh, was certainly great by birth. He was a born revolutionary, whose whole life since early life to last stage of life was dedicated to single objective of bringing revolution in India. The younger brother of Sardar Kishen Singh and elder brother of Sardar Swarn Singh, Sardar Ajit Singh was born in Garh Kalan (Big Fort) in district Jullundhur, Tehsil Nawan Shahr, Thana Banga, Village Lhatkar Kalan (The Great Khatkar). Great Grandson of Sardar Fateh Singh, (Grandson of Sardar Sandhu Singh and son of Sardar Arjun Singh, an Arya Samaji), the early life of Sardar Ajit Singh was passed in a very progressive family atmosphere. During Mughal Period his one of the ancestors from Lahore came and settled in Jullundhar as a son-in-law of a Lord of the fortress (Garh Kalan). Sardar Ajit Singh learnt Persian, Urdu and Arabic in childhood from his grandfather and utilized his knowledge throughout his life in teaching Urdu, Persian and Punjabi, where so ever he passed his life mostly in South America. Ajit Singh believed that "religious institutions have done a great harm to the country by creating divisions among communities." During his childhood only Sardar Ajit Singh developed great hatred against alien British rulers of Punjab, who were all called 'Sahib' by the all residents of Punjab. Punjab came under the suzerainty of East India Company following the death of Maharaja Ranjit Singh in 1839, and the Anglo-Sikh wars of 1845-46. The British strategic tactics of utilizing help of profiteer classes of India from the international trade of East India Company and the traitors and coward princely states against the disintegrated princely states against the later Mughals the East India Company had succeeded in overrunning all resistances against British rule and commencement of British Colonization of India. The hatred among exploited common Indian peasantry against British alien rulers and their supporter landlord feudal classes, responsible