

Border Movement in Hyderabad Karnataka for Liberation and Integration (1947-48)

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The autocracy of the Mir Osman Ali Khan, the last ruler of the Asaf Jahi dynasty undoubtedly had a pro-Muslim, anti-Hindu aspect to it. The Nizam of Hyderabad had made his intentions very clear in the month of June when the country was at the threshold of independence. Through a Farman (order) dated 26th June 1947, he declared his resolve not to participate in the Constituent Assembly and not to join the Indian Union. He also claimed that the removal of the British paramountcy entitled him to declare his independence. He even went to the extent of declaring the national flag of India as foreign¹. He was under the control of a fanatic organization by name “Majlis-I-Ittehad-UI-Muslemeen”, a cultural organisation of the Muslims. But it became a fanatic organisation under the leadership of Kasim Razvi in his bid to protect the Nizam's independence. The Volunteer of that Organisation was called a Razakar. Urdu was imposed on his subjects, and the Razakars' actions were targeted against Hindus². The Arya Samaj, which took up cudgels for the 'Hindu masses' against 'Muslim oppressors', took over the leadership of the anti-Nizam movement partly owing to the late arrival of the Congress; until 1940 the Indian National Congress did not take up the people's struggle in the princely state. Shri.Ramanand Theertha as the president of Congress in Hyderabad did a lot of work in building Congress in north Karnataka and awakening people against the misrule of Nizam but lack of same commitment from many Congressmen, saw Congress becoming a party of Brahmins and being restricted to meetings and protest resolutions in this region³. Disillusioned by the Congress, the youths came together at the sleepy town of Mundaragi, to set up the first camp of freedom fighters that would fight the Razakars and the Nizam rule and work towards merger of Hyderabad with India⁴. The condition in this camp was very bad and no food was available for the youths. The convenor of the camp, Shri.Alwandi Shivmurthy Swami was unable to make any progress and it appeared as if the Mundaragi camp would be closed down soon. It was then, that Shri.Annadanayya Puranik, a native of Dyampur village of erstwhile Raichur district and was studying B.Com degree at Osmania University of Hyderabad, came to this camp. Discontinuing the studies, he joined the camp and approached

the Swamiji of Mundaragi Mutt for assistance. The Mutt liberally provided food and clothing to the youths of the camp and people of Mundaragi began to take active interest in the activities of the camp. Shri.Puranik convinced Shri.Hebsur, the Fauzdar of Mundaragi to provide training in using fire arms to the youth of the Mundaragi Camp. Soon, the youths began guerrilla type of attacks on the Razakars and Nizam Police⁵. The success lead to more success and the Nizam government began to notice that these attacks had support of the people and began to hunt down the youths of Mundaragi camp. Thus began the first armed struggle against the Razakars and the Nizam rule in Hyderabad province and soon these youths, now numbering 1000, from Mundaragi camp under the leadership of Shri.Annadanayya Puranik were able to liberate 85 villages in Nizam province and form a government in exile!!

Sardar Patel was so impressed by the success and commitment of these youths and Shri.Puranik that he sent Union minister Shri.Gadgil on a special mission to Mundaragi. Mr.Gadgil brought the support of Sardar Patel and gave instructions to the Mundaragi youths to become more active and also communicate the acts of misrule of Nizam and the atrocities committed by the Razakars to the outside world and what happened at Mundaragi Camp and how it helped in liberation of Hyderabad.

Under the directions of the Hyderabad state Action committee, about hundred Border camps, from where armed attacks could be carried out against the Razakars, were set up in the border areas of Bellary, Dharwad, Bijapur, Sholapur, Pune, Adilabad, and Vijayawada and in the areas of Rayalseema to stir accession movement in Hyderabad state. These camps were situated five to six kilometres away from the border line of Nizam state. The investigations have revealed that, of these, 30 camps were along the border of Hyderabad Karnataka with the Bombay and Madras presidencies⁶. The nationalist workers were given training by soldiers who belonged to the erstwhile Indian National Army. From here the nationalist soldiers undertook raids against Razakar centres and even liberated and took over the administration of some areas (like Ittagi and its neighbouring villages in Yelburga taluks of the then Raichur District).

Every border camp was divided into two wings namely unarmed wing and CID wing. Each Camp was under the control of a *Shibiradhipati* (camp in-charge) who personified all powers of the Action Committee. The unarmed wing was consisted of *Satyagrahis* and other congress workers. Their duty was to propagate the ideas of *Swarajya* and condemn the atrocities of the *Razakars* in order to mould the public opinion in favour of integrating the

Hyderabad State into the Union of India and secure the responsible government. They were to assist in collecting funds, food grains and cloth from the people and supplied them to different refugee camps⁷.

Secondly, the wing entered the Hyderabad State in different disguises such as *Koravanji*, (a female of koravas who commonly in future teller) *Tamburi* (sting instrument) *Players*, *Koracha* (who manufactures and sells rope and house hold utensils, toys), *Durugamma*, *Sadhu (saint)*, *Begger*, *Kavalettu* (an ox that has been taught to execute various clever performances) ect., and worked as C.I.D.'s to gather information on the latest attacking strategy by the Razakars and the Nizam police on Hindus. They gave advance information to the *Shibiradhipaties* in border camps through wireless to enable them to counter act the aggression of Razakars and the Nizam police on Hindus and to make plans to raid police stations and *Karodgiri-Nakas* of Nizam state. Basavaraj Chitguppikar, Channappa Wali, Kalappa Sanna Yarasi, Dambalada Somappa, Mudiyyappa Talawar, R.V., Bidappa , Dattatreya Rao Avaradi, V.B. Padaki, Poolchand Gandhi, Jayateerth Rajpurohit, Ranganath Saigaonkar were best among C.I.D., wing.

The armed wing was an important organization in each border camp. Under the instructions of *Sibiradhipati*, the soldiers of the camp led by specially appointed Dalapati marched to raid the specified police, Revenue and Karodgiri nakas (customs office) Stations abruptly for loot and arson. There was a direct fight between the Razakars and armed wing of the border camps, causing heavy casualties on both the sides⁸.

REVOLUTIONARY ACTIVITIES

The border camps, though came into existence from the beginning of October 1947, started to work vigorously and took daring actions to intensify the Accession Movement in Hyderabad State from January 1948 to Setember,1948 i.e., up to Police Action. In the initial Period i.e. from October 1947 to January of 1948, the workers in the border camps mainly concentrated their attention to protect lives and properties of Hindu and Muslim nationalists from the depredations of the fanatic Razakars. In the meanwhile the Arya Samaj was striving hard for the same cause⁹.

In order to understand how the militant nationalists fought against the atrocities committed by the Razakars, it is essential to know how they attacked *Karodgiry Nakas* and liberated the villeges of Nizam state before the historic Police Action. It is necessary to explain

revolutionary activities of freedom fighters working in border camps. Since it is not possible to keep the services rendered by the nationalists on record who worked in about hundred border camps, I have taken few samples (Military camps) to enable the reader to evaluate the importance of 'Border Movement'.

TALIKOT CAMP

This camp was under the command of Barrister Raja Venkatappa Naik of Surpur. Advocate Apparao, the *Dalapati* of this camp was over all in charge of all operations undertaken this camp. Team of 25 youths led by Virupakshappa Patil assisted him in the raids. This camp was able to overthrow the rule of Nizam in many surrounding villages. The important fights by this camp were the raids on Malnur and Nelavigi villages of Surpura taluka. The Razakars and the Nizam's semi military forces fought a pitch full battle with the camp workers. In this fight, Virupakshappa and Sharanappa, the spirited youths of this camp were shot dead by the Razakars. The dead bodies were taken on Surpur by the Razakars and paraded them in the streets of the town to strike terror in the minds of the people. In memory of the martyr- Viz. Virupakshappa of Surpur, "The Upper Krishna Project Canal" is named after him. While liberating the villages of the Nizam dominion, the camp incharge - Raja Venkatappa Naik Organized 'Guerrilla Warfare' of camouflage concealment to crush the ferocious atrocities of the Razakars.

DUDANI CAMP

The Sibbiradhipathi of this camp was Gurubheema Rao Patil of Revoor. This camp carried out 19 raids on the Nizam territory. In the raid on Arjunagi village, 30 ML guns were seized from the Razakars. In the raid on Sangoligi village, 5 ML guns and in the raid on Arjunagi village 10 ML guns, 10 swords, 4 spears were captured on 26th July, 1948 by the camp workers. Similarly in the raids on Sirudge, Gavoor, Nimbaraga many arms and ammunitions were seized from the Razakars. About 20 Razakars and few Nizam police were killed. From the camp side, Sivalingappa of Madaguniki, Shivalingappa and Kashiraya of Madanahipparga lost their lives for the cause of independence and integration of the state on 12th June 1948.

The chief Dalapathi of this camp -Shivaraya became martyr while liberating of Nimbaraga and Yelasangi village on 20th June, 1948. The workers of Goudgaon and

Madanhipparga camps and the Indian police helped the camp incharge of Dudani while liberating the village of Yalasangi.(Aland Tq. Gulbarga district) Hundreds of Razakars were killed at Yelasangi. In protest of this, the leader of the Razakars –Kasim Razvi observed ‘Yalasangi Day’ to take retaliating steps on Hindus at Gulbarga.

GOUDGAON AND MADANAHIPPARAGA CAMPS

Dharama Veera Nelogi and Saibanna were Sibiradhipathis of these camps. The circumstances forced them to work together while liberating the villages of Jambigi and Tirukachincholi in the month of August, 1948. The active workers of these camps were Byrappa Patil of Boosnur, Dharama veera Suryavamshi of Afzalpur, Kusumakar Desai of Gulbarga and Appa Rao patil of Mahagaon. There were about 100 workers in these camps and they covered 20 miles distance of Nizam territory and incised the people to burn the customs offices and police stations during the period from June, 1948 to 10th September, 1948. Apprao Patil of Mahagaon laid down his life while fighting to arrest the Razakars from their hide-outs in the villege of Tirukachincholi on the day of Vijay Dasmi i.e, 10- 10-1948.

WAGDHARI CAMP

This camp functioned under the camp in charge of Annarao Veerabhadrapa patil of Aland. He took over charge from Gopaldeva shastri of Basavakalyana who was seriously injured while raiding the villege of Heroli (Aland Tq) in December, 1947. Gurunatha Rao Dhage, Digambara Kathare, Shankar Setty patil and Marutirao Bulbuli were active workers of this camp. This camp liberated the villagers of Heroli, Sarasamba and Gangapur and burnt the custom offices at Chitaguppa, Bhalki and Bhoosanur. They cut toddy trees which lie in between Aland and Bhalki. The workers of this camp incited the people to rebel against the Nizam to integrate the State of Hyderabad into the union of India¹⁰.

KASARAJAVALAGA CAMP

This camp lies on the border line of Sholapur district. Most of the workers of this militant camp were dedicated college students and they received military training at Dehradun, Poona and Patiala. The Sibiradhipathi of this camp was Digambara Rao Kalmankar. The outstanding achievement of this camp was the liberation of the village Padasavalagi on 20.07.1948. The militant workers of the camp raided and looted the police stations of Nimbarga (Aland taluk) to secure the arms for the protection of non-Muslims. In the terrific fight against the Razakars at Padasavalagi, the camp workers killed three pathans in the firing and seized

new revolvers. It is to be noted that the findings of these new revolvers confirmed the fact that these arms were supplied to the Nizam on large scale by Mr. Sidney Cotton, an Australian arms seller. He was reported to be engaged in aerial gun running with Karachi. When Mr. Cotton was taken to meet Laik Ali, the Prime Minister of Hyderabad, had agreed to supply 500 tonnes of machineguns, grenades, mortars and anti-aircraft guns.¹¹ Above all the brave workers of this camp successfully raided the Nizam's post offices and arrack shops in and around the border places of Aland Taluka. They hoisted the National Flags on Government buildings and educational institutions to wise the will of the people in favour of the responsible government. As on 8th August 1948, the Nationalists working under the directions of the state Action Committee in different border camps of Gulbarga district were able to liberate the Seventy Five villages of Aland, Afzalpur and solapur talukas.

MUNDARGI CAMP

In the epic struggle for the liberation of Hyderabad state, the Mundargi border camp was the biggest. The camp was situated at Mundaragi (Dharwad District) in the premises of old Annadana Swami Matha n 15th August 1947. It worked under the leadership of Alavandi sivamurthy swamy. Dr.C.M.Churchihalmath Mundaragi discharged the duties as Upa-Sibiradhipati. The outstanding feature of this camp was that under the directions of this camp, eleven sub sub camps were established at Hesarur, Hallikeri, Ilakal, Sudi, Timmapura, Naregal, Nidugundikoppa, Mugali, Hampasagar, Tambrahalli and Bachigondanhalli on the border lines of Bellary and Dharwad districts.

During the thick of the accession movement i.e., from December 1947 onwards, even the workers of Ittigi border camp led by Ramachara B.Purohit and workers of Gajendragada camp which was under the command of Pundlikappa Gnanamoti, fought with greater unity and harmony with Mundaragi border camp in attacking the centres of Razakars , raiding the police stations karodgiri Nakas and in freeing the villages of the Nizam dominion.

About 250 energetic youths worked as soldiers in the Mundargi camp. The advisory and Executive body of this camp consisted of Desai of Sydnekoppa, Virupakshappa of Madanur, Sirur Veerabhadrapa of Adur, Dambal Somappa of Koppal, Channappa Wali, R.V.Bidappa, Aannadanappa Doddameti, R.R.Diwar, S.Nijallingappa and Hallikeri Gudleppa, Devrindrakumar Hakare of Chikenakoppa and Panchakshsri Hiremath of Bisanalli Assisted Shivamurthy Swamy in making correspondence of the Mundargi camp in and outside the state of Hyderabad while intensifying the border movement.

Prabhuraj Patil of Yelburga and Shankreppa Yerasi of Bannikoppa worked as commander and Deputy Commander of Mundargi camp respectively. The patriots like Siddanagouda, Karisidda Swamy Inamdar and Shankaregouda Tegginmani worked as section commanders. In the C.I.D. wing of Mundargi camp Kallappa Sanna Yerasi and Mudiappa Talvar rendered outstanding service. The soldiers who worked in this camp and its branches received military training for 20 days at the Cave of Kappatgudda (near Mundaragi) under the instructions of two I.N.A. officers, Captain Ramachandra Sing and Captain Jagat Singh, Every soldier working in Mundargi camp led by Shivamurthy Swamy took an oath of Pancha sree 1) Veer sree 2) Dairy sree 3) Sahas sree 4) Sangharsh sree 5) Abhiman sree to the last in order to dismount the tyranny of Nizam and savage acts of the Razakars. Six jeeps and a private bus (the owner of the private bus was Basarigidada Veeappa, an outstanding doner of the days) with adequate arms and ammunitions were at the service of Mundaragi soldiers in their fight against the Nizam and Razakars.

ACTIONS OF MUNDARGI CAMP

As per the directions of Alavandi shivsmurthy Swamy, the Commandar Sankarappa Yerasi led the soldiers in the raids. The Nizam Government stored arms and ammunitions on large scale in police station at Kuknur (Yelburga Tq.) The workers of Mundargi camp determined to secure these arms to resist the savage acts of repressions perpetrated by the Moghalai officials during the period commencing from September, 1947. At the villages Kawalur, Alavandi, Belagatti, Bannikoppa, Mudol, Hirehanchinal, Yelburga and Hesarur, there was a regular looting by the very persons realised that death was preferable to such a life. The women folk were molested. Therefore the nationalists of Mundargi camp under the command of Prabhuraja Patil decided to raid the police station of Kuknur. As a result of this, there was a terrific firing between the patriots and the Nizam Police. At last three Nizam police were man-handled by the spirited workers and looted the police station of Kuknur on 23-12-1947.

They captured hundred rifles, guns and huge explosive weapons. The arms were transported in three carts to the cave of Kappatgudda. The militant nationalists, Kappatappa Bele of Hirevaddatti and Panchakshri Hiremath of Koppal were appointed to safe guard these weapons and authorized them to supply the needed arms to the freedom fighters to intensify the border movement against the forces of the Nizam State.

For looting the police station of Kuknur, the Nizam police filed a criminal case against hundred congress workers of Mundaragi camp in the J.M.F., Court Koppal on 21st Aridibehest, 1357 Fasli¹² under the sections 368, 33 and 37 of the Defence Act of the government of Hyderabad (vide Judicial records in appendices). The case was struck off by the Munsiff Moulvi Khaja Mohamad Abdul Bagi Saheb after Police Action i.e., on 31st Teer, 1358 Fasil.

The Mundargi camp militant nationalists also raided on Ylburga, Hallikeri and went underground to assist the nationalists working in different military camps situated on the border lines of Telangana. In Hyderabad Karanataka, the camp workers liberated 14 villages near by Ittigi and Shantagiri (Teleyal Mugali, Sarapur, setup a parallel government and helped the villagers to run the administration independently.

The Union Government of India Commenced Police Action against Hyderabad on 13th September 1948 at 04.00 early in the morning. Union forces pierced Hyderabad borders at eight different points. After five days Major General of Indian troops J N Choudhary accepted the surrender of the Nizam's State forces from El-Edroos, Commander of the operation on the Nizam's side. On 20th of September the tricolour flag was officially unfurled in Hyderabad.

Annexure 1

Sl.no.	Name of the Camps	Names of shibiradhipatis(camp in charge)
1	Sindigi	Sardar sharanagowda Inamdar
2	Dudani	Guru Bheem Rao Patil Mudagunki
3	Goudagaon	Dharmavera Nelogi
4	Madana Hipparaga	Saibanna
5	Kesarajavalaga	D.B. Kalmankar
6	Talikote	Barister Raja Venkatappa Naik
7	Hotagi	Narayan Kanihal
8	Mynadarigi and Guddada Mallapura	Hakeekat Rai Chitaguppekar
9	Wagdhari	A.V.Patil
10	Tungabhadra	Raghavendra Rao Gudded & M.Nagappa
11	Mundaragi	Alavandi Shivamurthy Swami
12	Gajendragada	Pundalikappa Easwarappa Gnanamoti.

13	Ittagi	Ramachar B.Purohit
14	Kampli	B.Mariyappa G. Mahadevappa
15	Siruguppa	Akbar Tirumalarao & Kesava Rao Srikandhe
16	Mantralaya	Raghavendra Rao Gudded. (this camp was later on merged in Tungabhadra Camp)
17	Adoni	Gurunatah Raya and K.R. Hiregowda.
18	Kakkalmeli	Dasarao Muktedar. This camp was previously under the control of sharana Gouda Inamdar.
19	Hesarur	Virupakshappa
20	Baradur	Ananta Joshi.
21	Hallikari	Lingangouda, Mudegouda Police Patil
22	Sudi	Ittagi Virupakshaiah Hiremath
23	Timmapura	Nagappa kukanur
24	Naregal	Nagappa Abbigeri
25	Nidugundi	Somanna Dambal.
26	Koppa	Ananda Goud.
27	Tambarhalli	Siddanlingappa.
28	Hampasagara	Panchakshari Hiremath.
29	Bachigondanahalli	K.Channabasavana Gowda.
30	Ilakal	Sowde Gurappa. (It was working as a sub camp of Gajendragada)

End Notes

1. Desai V H., *Vandemataram to janaganamana, Saga of Hyderabad Freedom Struggle*, Bharatiya Vidya Bahavan, Bombay, 1990 p.19
2. Munshi K M., *The End of an Era-Hyderabad Memoires*, Bharatiya Vidya Bahavan, Bombay, 1957 p.37.
3. Mallapur B.V., “*Sardar Sharanagoud Inamdar*” Eminent Parliamentarian Series, Karnataka Legislative Council, Bangalore, 2006, p 22
4. Prettikumar (Ed)., *The Democrat, Saga of a Jail Journal of Hyderabad Freedom Struggle(1947-1948) the untold Story*, Bharatiya Vidya Bahavan, Bombay,1998, p.201
5. Mahabaleshwarappa.B C., *Hyderabad Karnatakadalli Rajakiya Chaluvligalu 1947-2008*, (a Kannada Work) Prasaranga, Gulbarga University, Gulbarga. 2008 pp.102-103 vide *Vimochame*, The Story of Hyderabad Freedom Movement of Koppala District, (*Kannada Work*) District Administration, Koppala, 1999, p.208
6. Hyderabad Karnataka was consisted of Bidar, Gulbarga and Raichur Districts of Kannada Speaking areas under the then Princely State of Hyderabad. Koppal District

was formed in 1997. Bellary District is also included in the Hyderabad Karnataka region now. Vide P.Nagabhushanagoud., Article entitled “*Gulbarga Jilleya Gadishibiragalu*” in “*Bidugade*” (Kannada work) edited by Dr.Basavaraj Police Patil on liberation of Hyderabad Karnataka, Amara Prakashana, Gulbarga, 2001, p.121.

7. KhandeRao Kulkarni., *Hyderabad ka Mukti Sangram* (a Hindi work), Vinayakrao vidyalankar Rashtrorhthana Sahitya Samiti, Hyderabad, 1998, p.124

8. Kulakarni Sunanda., *Rashtraveera Swami Ramanand Tirtha*, Nutan Vidyalay, Gulbarga, 2008. vide Kamat Suryanath U., *Horatada Nenapugalu*,(Kannada Work) Geeta Book House, Mysore 1977,pp.139-40

9. Acharya Satyanand Naustik., *Arya Samaj ka Hyderabad Satyagraha Aur Nizam Jailoki Yathanaye* (a Hindi work), Satyadharma Prakashana, Gurukula Kavarpura, Gordhanpura, Jaipur,1996

10. Patwari Shyam Sunder, *Pandit Taranath*, Sanjeevini Prakashana Raichur,1997, pp.12-15

11. Zubrzycki John., *The Last Nizam*, Macmilan, Pan Macmilan Australia pty Limited, Sydney, 2006, pp.190-92

12. Fasli- an era introduced by shah jahan. The Nizams issued all firmans in fasli. Adding 591 to it, the Christian era can be obtained. For more details on the Border Camps Please Vide Nagabhushanagoud.P., “*Princely States of Mysore and Hyderabad- Political Movements for the integration into the Union and the State (1935-1956)*” an Unpublished Ph.D thesis, Gulbarga University, Gulbarga. 1999.

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