

LIFE OF DALJIT SINGH AND ROLE IN KOMAGATAMARU INCIDENT

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ABSTRACT

Daljit Singh is a hidden freedom fighter . He was General Secretary of Komagatamaru Ship. The role played by Daljit Singh in the events of *Komagatamaru* has been described. From Baba Gurdit Singh's selection as Daljit Singh's Sectoral, travelers are ready to move to Canada. Canada's Government in Canada and the struggle with the immigration department are described. In this, the full work of Daljit Singh's *Komagatamaru* has been described.

Daljit Singh was born in village Kauni at home of Malook Singh. Kauni is a historical village situated in Muktsar district at a distance of 15 kilometres. Guru Gobind Singh ji visited this village during his life time.

Daljit Singh was eldest son of Malook Singh. He had one younger brother Harnam Singh and Sister Harnam Kaur. Malook Singh was a middle class farmer. He was a man of high thinking. At that time farming was not a profitable business. So he decided to keep Daljit Singh away from farming. He decided to make him a good officer by educating him.

Many movements were prevalent during birth of Daljit Singh. *Singh Sabha Movement*, *Chief Khalsa Diwan* and Congress developed during this period. These movements brought awakening in society. Motivated by these movements Malook Singh inspired his son for studies.

During that time people from India specially from Punjab went to foreign countries in large number. On one side government was imposing severe laws on people living in India and on the other side people living in foreign countries were aggravated by policies of government. Indians were racially discriminated in foreign countries. Due to tyrannies of government Indians founded Gadhari Party in San-Francisco in 1913.

When Canadian government imposed a new law on Indian people living there, Indians protested against that law.

Baba Gurdit Singh was running a business in Malaya. He was well known to many languages. But he was unknown about English, which was essential to talk with immigration officers to start a direct ship for Canada. Takhat Singh introduced him to Daljit Singh who was very fluent in speaking English.

During this time Daljit Singh was going to America with his friends for study. After all their preparation they started their journey for America. When they reached Hong Kong they thought it appropriate to stay at Gurudwara. There were many Punjabis in Gurudwara which were warned to stay in Canada after new rule.

In 1849 Britishers occupied Punjab, an independent region of India. After this Britishers started exploitation of India. Large number of youth from India were recruited in army and sent to foreign countries for war. Indians wanted to save themselves from this inhumane behaviour of Britishers. Therefore they choose the way to go to other countries by leaving India. Many Indians worked hardly in foreign countries, most of there were from Punjab. The people of Punjab had reached to the capitalist colonies of countries like America and Canada.¹

In 1897 Queen of England 'Victoria' celebrated the 60th anniversary of his empire. He invited Indians soldiers to attend this festival of diamond Jubilee. During the way to England they came across beautiful countries like Canada and thought that these countries like are beneficial for earning money. Hence people of Punjab started migration to Canada. Numbers of Indians residing in Canada up to 1908 was 2683. Indians attained a great success for which government of Canada developed a sense of hatred for Indians. Government of Canada imposed a law that people from India must have 200 cash dollars² if they want to come to Canada. To challenge this law of Canadian government Rattan Singh Raipur went to Victoria along with 39 Indians on 17th October, 1913 from Hong-Kong. The immigration department of Canada denied giving them permission. Indians field a case in court and were victorious. Court gave the decision in favour of passengers.

A group of people came to India against this aggressive policy of Canadian government which included Bhai Narayan Singh, Bhai Balwant Singh and Bhai Nand Singh Silia. They tried to build a movement in favour of Indo Canadians for by addressing conferences in different parts of Punjab.

They also visited Firozpur. They met Kashi Ram and Takhat Singh at Firozpur and Takhat Singh presented a proposal in favour of people living in Canada.³ They discussed with Takhat Singh to run a direct ship to Canada.

Baba Gurdit Singh was a business man living in Singapur and keeping a soft corner for Sikhs. He met Takhat Singh at Firozpur. He accepted the proposal of Takhat Singh to start a direct ship to Canada.⁴ During this time Daljit Singh was serving in Kanya Maha Vidyalaya along with his companion Bhai Veer Singh and was participating in social and cultural activities. He was in contact of Takhat Singh in whole process of running a direct ship. After the planning of whole procedure Baba Gurdit Singh needed a person well known and fluent in English. Takhat Singh choose Bhai Daljit Singh for this work and introduced

¹ Gurlal Singh Brar, *Komagatamaru da seh naiyak Daljit Singh (Rai Singh)*, Lokgeet Prakashan, Chandigarh, 2017, pp.22.

² Malwinderjeet Singh Wararch, *Saka Komagatamaru*, Lokgeet Prakashan, Chandigarh, 2014. pp.10.

³ Gurcharan Singh Sesra, *History of Gadar Party*, Background and influence of Komagatamaru, Chirangi Lal Kangniwal, 2015, pp.64.

⁴ Gurlal Singh Brar, *Komagatamaru da seh naiyak daljit singh (Rai Singh)*, Lok Geet Prakashan, Chandigarh, 2017, pp.130.

Daljit Singh to Baba Gurdit Singh.⁵

Daljit Singh had visited foreign countries to collect donations for Kanya Maha Vidyalaya from Hong Kong, Malaya and many other countries. After his all preparations he sent a message to Bhai Takhat Singh. Daljit Singh and his companion Veer Singh reached Calcutta in December, 1913 after receiving the message.⁶

Baba Gurdit Singh also reached Hong Kong from Singapore. There were many passengers in Hong-Kong, who were waiting for their acceptance to enter Canada. Daljit Singh shared his planning to start a direct ship to Canada for them. Daljit Singh got consent from all these passengers to run their ship after fulfilling all conditions. All the passengers accepted the planning of Daljit Singh. After consent of passengers Gurdit Singh asked Daljit Singh to discuss this issue with *Khalsa Diwan Society Vancouver*. Bhag Singh Kauni was living in Canada. Daljit Singh talked with him through a letter. He invited Daljit Singh and assured him to give him his help.⁷

After consent of *Khalsa Diwan Society* he shared this news with Baba Gurdit Singh. After receiving a letter from Daljit Singh, Gurdit Singh started his search for the ship. While living in Singapore he saw many ships but charges of these ships were very high. Daljit Singh wrote a letter to Gurdit Singh that number of passengers is less and they also don't have adequate amount to pay for this journey. He was facing difficulty in seller tickets and passengers wanted to see the ship before purchasing tickets. So ship must be arranged as early as possible. After receiving message Gurdit Singh reached Hong-Kong along with his son Balwant Singh.⁸

After reaching Hong-Kong Baba Gurdit Singh founded *Guru Nanak Steampip Navigation Company*. He made Daljit Singh Cashier and Secretary of this company. They started the search for the ship. They talked with many companies. They talked with English company of Jordan at rent of 6000/- dollor per month, but at the time of agreement company refused to give the ship. In the end they hired a ship *Kamagatamaru* at a rent of 11000 per month from Japanese company on 24th march, 1914.⁹

After taking ship on rent Daljit Singh conveyed a message to all the passengers that ship will start on 25th march from Hong Kong to Vancouver. Daljit Singh and Veer Singh started selling the tickets. Passengers showed a feeling of enthusiasm in purchasing tickets. A case was filled against Baba Gurdit Singh and Daljit Singh to start a ship and selling tickets without licence. Baba Gurdit Singh was arrested but soon released due to fear of rebellion by sikh regments. This incident gave birth to feeling of speculation in minds of passengers. Daljit Singh was thinking number of passengers to be more than 500, but this rumour decreased the number of passengers.

Daljit Singh started for Shingai on 4th April by taking 165 passengers after taking consent letter from

⁵ Gyani Kesar Singh, *Canadian Sikhs and Komagatamaru Massacre*, pp.128.

⁶ Daljit Singh written statement of Akali *Leader conspiracy Case*, , pp.1188

⁷ Gyani Kesar Singh, *Canadian Sikhs and KomagataMaru Massacre*, pp.163

⁸ Hieu J.S. Jonshan, *Historical journey of Komagatamaru*, Voice of Srocog Onlariv, Canada, 2016, pp.88,89.

⁹ *Ibid*, pp.89

Governor of Hong-Kong Mr. Savern. The ship reached Shingai on 8th April 1914. The passengers assembled in gurudwara of Shingai in which Daljit Singh delivered a lecture and told passengers about conspiracies of British government. Being motivated from lecture of Daljit Singh most of the passengers brought tickets for Canada. These included passengers rose the number to 276.¹⁰

The ship had to stop at Shingai for two days because 25 passengers were not able to withdraw cash from banks due to holiday. During these two days Daljit Singh met people of Punjab living in Shingai. The ship started for Maeyi without taking these 25 passengers. Afterwards Daljit Singh reached Nagaski and then Maeyi through train with these 25 passengers on 16th march.

The ship got 86 more passengers after reaching Mauzi. On 28th April, 1914 the ship reached Yokohama by taking these passengers from where they got 14 more passengers. Now the total number of passengers going to Canada rose to 376 and the ship started for his final destination Vancouver.

When *Komagatamaru* reached Mauri Balwant Singh Khurdpur reached there and talked with Gurdit Singh and Daljit Singh and put coal into the ship. They gave assurance of help to passenger and reached 2 days before the ship reached there.

The Ship reached Victoria 70 miles away from Vancouver on 21st May, 1914. When immigration department got the news of reaching of ship they came with boats and stopped the ship in water. The ship was stopped at the port. An immigration officer came and asked about clearance certificate of the ship from Captain. Captain of ship Yamamoto said that they had lost the certificate. The officer was happy at absence of clearance certificate because he could sent back the ship on the basis of this issue. But at this moment Daljit Singh entered the Cabin of Captain and presented the lost certificate before the immigration officer and made him quiet.¹¹

When Balwant Singh Khurdpur came to know about arrival of *Komagatamaru* he came to meet passengers through a boat but was not allowed to go near the ship and he went back without meeting with passengers.

On 23rd May 1914, the ship started for Vancouver and reached there in the evening . The ship was stopped at a distance of 1 kilometre from the port and was encircled by boats.

The immigration department instructed for medical examination of passengers. Superintendent of immigration department Malcum R.J Reed, Inspector Hopbinson and a doctor arrived for medical examination of passengers which continued till 27 May.¹²

Mr Hopkinson was an Anglo Indian person. He serviced for a long time in Punjab and was well known to Punjabi language .When doctor was conducting medical examination of passengers. He took Gurdit Singh to a corner and demanded bribe of 2000 pounds. Baba Gurdit Singh said that he wants to share this matter with Daljit Singh. But Inspector asked him to keep it a secret. Gurdit Singh shared this incident

¹⁰ Jaswant Singh Jas, *Baba Gurdit Singh*, New Book, Jalandhar, 1970, pp.50, 54

¹¹ Hiew J S Jonston, *Historical Journey of Komagatamaru*, voice of srokara, Onrive, Canada, 2016, pp.108,109.

¹² Hugh Johnston, *The Vorage of the Komagatamaru*, pp.39.

with Daljit Singh and they denied giving him bribe. Hopkinson got angry at this and left the place is disgust giving threats.¹³

The news of Indians reaching Canada spread through newspapers. The parliament of Canada passed an order not to allow any Indian to enter territory of Canada. The ship was standing at port of Vancouver. The passengers were not allowed to come out of ship. People started coming to port of Vancouver to see these people. Many T.V and newspaper reporters reached there. Daljit Singh tried share his views with these reporters. But Immigration department did not allow them to go near the ship. Large number of people gathered around the ship. Baba Gurdit Singh and Daljit Singh wanted to send their voice to government through newspapers but reporters were not allowed to go near the ship. Daljit Singh wrote a letter to Mr. R.J Read on 25th May 1914, and requested him to allow reporters to came to ship.

Doctor completed the medical examination of passengers on 27th May. To make the procedure lengthy they established an enquiry board and started enquiry from passengers. The passengers were fed up with behaviour of Immigration department. On 28th may Daljit Singh wrote one more letter to Mr Read about misbehaviour of officers and requested to ban entry of officers in the ship without any specific reason.¹⁴

Baba Gurdit Singh and Daljit Singh decided to fight legally with Canadian government on this issue. They talked with leaders of *Khalsa Diwan Society* and United Indians league. They all joined to fight a legal case and hired a lawyer Mr. J Edward Bird. But Canadian government did not gave permission to this lawyer to go on ship and talk with Daljit Singh. Mr Bird wrote a long letter to Mr Read on 1st June 1914 regarding illegal stoppage of *Komagatamaru*, to recompense for depredation and problems related with long enquiry by immigration department.

Mr Bird requested to Mr Read to reply these letters and he also gave a reply through which he came to know that he had presented statement of Daljit Singh in a wrong manner. Mr Bird said that Medical examination must not be delayed. Mr Bird sent all those letters to Mr read which Daljit Singh wrote to Canadian government after being harassed at the hands of immigration department on 25th May, 1914.

I wants to ask that whether you have given orders to officers invigilating Komagatamaru or they themselves have stopped journalists of Vancouver coming to ship. So please tell me reason. I want to read all daily papers of Vancouver. So, please arrange their supply. I will pay the requisite amount.

*Yours faithful
Daljit Singh
Controller Komagatamaru*

Daljit Singh sent one more letter in which he strongly criticised Immigration department.

I want to make you aware that medical examination had been completed on 27 June, 1914. Nothing

¹³ Written statement of Daljit Singh, *Akali Leader conspiracy Case*, pp.1195.

¹⁴ Gurlal Singh Brar, *Komagatamaru da seh naiyak bhai Daljit Singh (Rai Singh)*, Lok Geet Parkashan, Chandigarh, 2017, pp.37.

is left to enquire about the patients. Your officers need not to visit the ship without any specific reason. Yours many men entered the ship during night which is not right in my viewpoint. Our passengers are uncontended from behaviour of your immigration officers. I fears might any incident may happen. In future without any specific reason, no person should visit the ship. You can guard the ship from your boats. So, I want to inform you through this notice, that if you does not takes the required action regarding this matter, you will be responsible themselves.

*Yours faithfull
Daljit Singh
Controller Komagatamaru*

Immigration department came in action through these letters of Daljit Singh. Officers of Immigration department attended this issue. Baba Gurdit Singh said that if your officers keep on harassing our passengers, it will be difficult for us to keep them calm. It can lead to clash between officers and passengers. So your officers must not visit the ship.

On the contrary officers of immigration department were presenting their side. They were also giving assurance of solving this issue as early as possible. Hence Baba Gurdit Singh and Daljit Singh wrote several letters to Canadian government and immigration department from 23rd May to 23rd July.

Baba Gurdit Singh sent many telegrams to make aware the high officers of Canada, about their condition. Daljit Singh sent a letter to agent of immigration department Vancouver regarding these telegrams.

I request you politely that today in the afternoon; I gave 40 dollars for telegrams to your officer *T. Chetuk*. I have not got any receipt till now. Please enquire whether these telegrams have been sent or not. Please send arrears and receipts and also send stamps and original copies of those telegrams at my expenditure from telegram office.¹⁵

The meal in the ship was only for the journey days. But Immigration department knowingly wasted the time in the medical and other enquires which leads to shortage of food material in the ship. Many passengers became ill and there was shortage of medicine in the ship. One passenger was serious and Daljit Singh wrote a letter to immigration department

*“I request that one of our people is seriously ill. Your officers have seen him. Our doctor does not have any medicine to treat him. Please arrange some treatment otherwise he will die”.*¹⁶

Immigration department gave a reply to this letter of Daljit Singh that it is not their responsibility to supply food articles to passengers of *Komagatamaru*. This is duty of owner and controllers of the ship. They replied about ill patient, that if you want to buy medicines for the patient. I can manage ship to take you to the port. Our officer will accompany you to the city. But you have to bear the cost of medicine and other articles. In that way Canadian government and officers of Immigration department were harassing

¹⁵ Sohan Singh Josh, *Komagatamaru Documents*, Desh Bhagat Yadgar Hall, Jalandhar.

¹⁶ *Ibid.*

passengers of the ship. There was shortage of food articles in the ship. Daljit Singh sent a letter to immigration department about this issue, but they refused clearly stating that it is not their responsibility but sole responsibility of controller of ship.

Baba Gurdit Singh, J Edward Bird and Daljit Singh wrote several letters to immigration department regarding shortage of food articles, water and medicines and wastage of time by enquiry commission. But there was not any effect on Mr. Reed and he only replied that I am also trying to finish this task as early as possible. But he was very happy from the core of his heart. The Immigration department and Canadian government are trying their best to send back *Komagatamaru*.

Komagatamaru was stopped at Vancouver harbour from the last 15 days. The enquiry commission established to enquire about passengers of ship was doing his work very slowly and carelessly. The Immigration department got the news that date to pay the rent of ship is near hence they started delaying the inquiry. Their only motive was to harass Indian passengers and to force them to go back to India. Rent of ship was 22000 dollars. The fixed date to pay the rent was 11th June, 1914. Mr. Read and Hopkinson were thinking that company will take back their ship in situation of not paying the rent.

The chief of *Khalsa Diwan Society* Bahi Balwant Singh was making many efforts, but nobody was allowed to go near the ship. Baba Gurdit Singh asked Daljit Singh to go outside and to make arrangement for the food but immigration department was not ready to take any risk by allowing him to come out of ship.¹⁷

Baba Gurdit Singh and Daljit Singh were in contact of immigration department through correspondence but they were not able to establish contact with Balwant Singh and Bhag Singh of *Khalsa Diwan Society* Vancouver. In the end Daljit Singh was successful in making contact with *Khalsa Diwan Society* through a British officer.¹⁸

The main problem before Baba Gurdit Singh and Daljit Singh was to pay rent of the ship. *Khalsa Diwan Society* accepted the responsibility of paying the rent of ship and many Indians living in Canada gave the assurance of helping them. Advocate Mr. Brid changed the agreement to the name of Hamn Rahim from Baba Gurdit Singh and made them owner of ship. In this way they paid the rent of *Komagatamaru* and were saved from a difficult situation.¹⁹

Daljit Singh thanked Bhag Singh to save them from a difficult situation through a letter. Passengers were in a mood of courage but problem of food and medicine existed as before. The doctor of *Komagatamaru* Raghunath Singh intermingled with immigration department. Only he was allowed to go outside the ship. Baba Gurdit Singh and Daljit Singh were very well known about this thing. So they were not in favour of sending Raguraj out of ship.

All efforts were fruitless and food and medicines were not supplied in the ship. On 11th June, 1914,

¹⁷ Gurlal Singh Brar, *Komagatamaru da seh naiyak bhai Daljit Singh (Rai Singh)*, Lok Geet Parkashan, Chandigarh, 2017 pp-53.

¹⁸ Varyam Singh Sandhu, *Jiwani Bhai Meva Singh Lopke*, Sangam Publication, Patiala, 2015, pp.56.

¹⁹ Written statement of Daljit Singh, *Akali Leader conspiracy Case*, pp.1197.

Daljit Singh once again wrote a letter to Mr. Read describing worst condition of passengers and about shortage of food and water.

I want to bring it in your notice that according to your order of 10th June. I sent a man for food and water on the harbour but you sent him back stating that food will be supplied up to evening. This thing happened again on today evening. He was asked to take the food brought by local Indians. When he did not come back most of our passengers were ready to come down from ship. Mr. Denim stopped them. I am sorry to so that neither your order was put to action nor you fulfilled your promise. The most explosive thing is to keep the passengers hungry. I am astonished that what is your motive in keeping the passengers hungry? Passengers are hungry from the morning and our any person cannot go to harbour without your order. Any decision must be taken regarding this. I am waiting for your reply.²⁰

Immigration department was not worried about these things. They were delaying this matter. On one side enquiry commission was spending more time than needed and on the other hand passengers were facing hunger and illness. Apart from all these things Canadian govt exploited the passengers of *Komagatamaru* stating that every Indian coming to Canada must possess 200 cash dollars. Canadian government and immigration department were not helping passengers but were putting them in new problems by making new laws.

In reply of letters of Daljit Singh Mr. Read was doing nothing put passing time by gossips. He said that work of enquiry will be soon finished. He stated that condition of 200 cash dollars is legal. If a passenger does not possesses 200 dollars how he can file a case in the court. He stated that he will allow the passengers to come down out of ship after enquiry. If any passenger may be found unfit, he will be allowed only after having proper fitness.

The lawyer of *Komagatamaru* made many efforts but Canadian government was not ready to accept arrival of *Komagatamaru* passengers to Canada. Daljit Singh made one more effort and wrote a letter to Governor General and secretary of Ottawa government. Daljit Singh feared that Canadian government and immigration department would stop this letter from reaching Governor General therefore he demanded for receipt of letter.

At last water exhausted from the ship. All the efforts made by Daljit Singh were unsuccessful. Passengers were thirsty and were drinking water from the ocean which resulted in deterioration of their health. There were also some children in the ship whose condition was critical. Once again Daljit Singh wrote a letter to immigration department. I am requesting you again and again to supply fresh water in the ship, but I am not getting any reply from you.

Our passengers are drinking dirty and tasteless water of inferior quality due to which they are infected by diseases of cough and throat swelling. Hence we request you to supply hygienic and fresh water

²⁰ Sohan Singh Josh, *Komagatamaru Documents*

till evening.²¹

When Bhai Balwant Singh and his companions got the news about their hungry brothers they brought food articles after collecting money and sent it to the ship. The passengers of ship took a decision that they will not demand help either from immigration department or from Indo-Canadians and they remained hungry for a week.²²

Komagatamaru was standing at the harbour for more than 50 days. People of city were talking about this incidence. People were coming on harbour to watch the ship. Reporters were also visiting the place. At last Daljit Singh was successful in telling the entire incidence to a reporter and he published the whole news in the newspaper.

We have no reason to complaint against behaviour adopted by Canadian police against us. We only feel that our case should be discussed in court. We have not any complaint, but we are strangers for our own government which is not capable to see that in spite of being subjects of British government, we have not liberty to go anywhere in his empire.

Victorian (Canada) government gave us the right to come to Canada. We came here by keeping in mind that everything will be fine. We are broken at the decision of the government not to allow us to enter the Canadian territory, but in my view we cannot blame you.²³

Government stepped backward by continuous efforts and criticism through news paper and started supply of food and water on the ship. Passengers were happy at their victory but immigration department stepped down on inferior policies in anger. Immigration department began to threaten the passengers. Hopkinson started instigating passenger's Against Baba Gurdit Singh and Daljit Singh. Due to these policies of immigration department Daljit Singh wrote a letter to him.

I request you that today when I went to get signature of your officer Mr. Queene on an application he refused and tried to snatch papers from me. This letter included some other signature also. I jumped from the boat so that he may not snatch the letter, which would prove to be a very dangerous thing as it contained signatures of many other people. The captain of our ship can testify the incident as he was also present there.

The activity of your officer to harm us is very disastrous. I request you to take an action against him because our passengers in spite of being authentic are facing difficult situations and illegal behaviour of your officers is inauspicious.

One more request is that Hopkinson tried to conspire passengers against me and Baba Gurdit Singh. Mr. Bird also has been confirmed regarding this.

Our all passengers are peaceful. If your officers will try to aggravate our passengers than you

²¹ *Ibid.*

²² Written statement of Daljit Singh, *Akali Leader conspiracy Case*, pp- 1198

²³ Gurlal Singh Brar, *Komagatamaru da Seh naiyak bhai Daljit Singh (Rai Singh)*, Lokgeet Parkashan, Chandigarh, 2017, pp.59,60

themselves will be responsible for the results.²⁴

The passengers were in feeling of courage because Canadian government started supply of food and water to passengers, but behaviour of immigration department was very rude. On the mid night of 18th July 1914, officers of immigration department came to *Komagatamaru* and threatened captain of the ship lavamottu to take back the ship, but captain refused and they went back. During 11:30 PM they again came back on the ship through a big boat Cline along with nearly 700 police officers. They wanted to take the ship to a distant place with the help of boat. The passengers opposed then and there was a clash between passengers and police five passengers were injured in this incident Daljit Singh shared this incident with Balwant Singh and asked him to help then is their legal battle with Canadian government.

Canadian government was not in favour of taking the case to court, because they feared that court can give decision in favour of passengers. They wanted to send back passengers forcibly from there. On the contrary passengers wanted to take the case to court. Baba Gurdit Singh said that he came here to check justice of British government and to check his own identity as a British citizen.²⁵

Passengers of *Komagatamaru* were firmly determined to take the case to court but Canadian government overruling all the laws presented a passenger Munsha Singh to the court and charged him not to fulfilling condition of 200 dollars on direct journey and ordered *Komagatamaru* to go back.

Now all the leaders were thinking that it is not fruitful to stretch this battle and it will be appropriate to take back the ship without any harm. In this way Baba Gurdit Singh and Daljit Singh agreed with the Canadians. Daljit Singh stated that they are ready to take back the ship but Immigration department will have to supply food and water required to reach to Calcutta. But Daljit Singh and Baba Gurdit Singh were well know about the fact that Immigration department will turn off from their word once the ship started. So passengers' demanded supply of food and water before departure of ship from the port. Hence Daljit Singh demanded these terms from Immigration departments.

1. Food should be supplied to the ship.
2. New passengers of the ship Bhag Singh and Rahm Singh should be allowed to come to the ship.
3. If both these conditions are accepted, they can allow to fill steam in the ship.²⁶

Immigration department denied to accept these conditions of Daljit Singh. They stated that they cannot fulfil any such conditions. Daljit Singh discussed this matter with passengers and it was decided that they will not move the ship from the port until the acceptance of their demands.

Five passengers were injured in a quarrel on the ship. Daljit Singh said to the immigration department that condition of one of the patient is serious and they should be allowed to take him to the port, but Immigration department refused. Their officers said that they can allow them only after supply of food and water.

²⁴ Sohan Singh Josh, *Komagatamaru Documents*.

²⁵ Malwinderjeet Singh warrIch *saka Komagatamaru*, Lok Geet Parkashan, Chandigarh, 2014, pp.57.

²⁶ Gurlal Singh Brar, Daljit Singh, *Komagatamaru*, Lok Geet Parkashan, Chandigarh, 2017, pp.79.

Komagatamaru was ready to went back. Immigration department was not ready to take any risk. They had managed soldiers and ships. They also managed a special kind of Rambo ship. There was a suspicion in the mind of Immigration department that these Indian passengers can rebel any time.

All the arrangements were complete to take back the ship. The newspaper of British Columbia 'The Daily Province' presented the discussion of Daljit Singh and Hopkinson in this manner.

The Daily Province, Vancouver British Columbia, Monday 20 July 1914.²⁷

There was an interesting dialogue between Daljit Singh and Mr Hopkinson Daljit Singh presented as Secretary of Gurdit Singh and represented passengers of the ship during his discussion with Mr. Hopkinson. Mr. Hopkinson clearly criticised the invasion of officers during night. Mr. Daljit Singh was standing beside him and Mr. Stearens was standing on boat of immigration department. While receiving telegram from Mr. Hopkinson Daljit Singh invaded through his weapon of words. He stated that their passengers are ready to go back But food should be supplied immediately and wounded passengers must be treated during night. We should be allowed to meet our Indian brothers living in Canada, who are standing outside.²⁸

Immigration department replied to Daljit Singh that If you allows us to fill steam in the ship and allows us to load food articles worth 6000 dollars then we will allow you to talk with your companions by coming down from the ship.

Daljit Singh asked them to first load food articles and then fill steam in the ship. At last they were successful and immigration department became ready to first load food articles and then to fill steam in the ship. After that they gave permission to committe related with *Komagatamaru* to go on the ship and met with passengers. In this way they came back after meeting all passengers and, at last Passengers setback for India on 23rd July 1914.

On his return *Komagatamaru* reached Yokahama on 15th August, 1914. But governor of Hongkong gave an order not to allow boarding the ship on the port. Ship remained standing there for three days. At Yokohama passengers of ship met Baba Sohan Singh Bhakna. He suggested passengers to take revenge with the help of armed rebellion Daljit Singh and Harnan Singh Gujranwala discussed all the matter with Sohan Singh Bhakna and they planned the proceeding programme.

Baba Sohan Singh Bhakna arranged and supplied 200 pistols and 2000 cartridges to the ship.²⁹

Ship started from Yokohama and reached port of Kobe on 20th August, 1914. The ship stood there for 13 days. After that ship was ordered to move for Calcutta.

After starting for kobe ship reached Hugli after passing through Singapur and kolo while returning Daljit Singh, Jawahar Lal and Baba Gurdit Singh addressed the passengers, and filled courage in them to take ravenge from government.³⁰

²⁷ *The Daily Province*, Vancouver British Columbia, Monday 20 July 1914.

²⁸ Gurlal Singh Brar, *Komagatamaru da seh Naiyak Daljit Singh (Rai Singh)*, Lok Geet Parkashan Chandigarh, 2017, pp.87,88

²⁹ *Auto biography Baba Sohan Singh Bhakna*, pp.44-45.

³⁰ Sohan Singh Josh, *Komagatamaru Documents*.

Daljit Singh was filled with anger. He started thinking upon the statement of Baba Sohan Singh Bhakana. Jawahar Laal said that all the passengers will be searched on reaching the ship at port of Calcutta. So the arms given by Baba Sohan Singh Bhakna should be dropped in the sea. So to remain safe from any coming difficulty all the arms were dropped into the sea. Daljit Singh himself searched the passengers for his self satisfaction.³¹

On 27th September, 1914 British officers and Punjab police under Deputy Superintendent Sukha Singh who came for Ludhiana searched all the passengers and rooms of the ship. Police also searched room of Daljit Singh. After investigating for two hours Sukha Singh stated that it is a lengthy task and requires time of many days. Therefore he seized all the papers.³²

On 27th September, 1914 ship started from Hugli and reached *Budge-budge* at 12 noon. The passengers were asked to come down of ship but they insisted to go to Calcutta. One officer order the passengers to come out of ship in fifteen minutes otherwise ship will be forced to go from there. Daljit Singh was in charge of finance of the ship. There for he wanted to receive acknowledge receipt from the British officers.³³ Daljit Singh started counting of money but under pressure of officers and passengers he came out of ship by leaving his work in between police was searching the ship from the last three days. Police indentified eight people on the basis of their behaviour and activities who were possessing leaders like influence and they declared then and dangerous persons, Baba Gurdit Singh, Daljit Singh and Jawahar Lal were declared as most dangerous than all.³⁴

The Captain of the ship Yomamoto was aware of the discussion of Baba Sohan Singh Bhakna with passengers. He was also aware of arms kept in the ship. But the passengers dropped those arms in sea in the way. But captain of the ship Yamamoto stated in his statement the Daljit Singh possesses a pistol.³⁵

Police officers decided to stop Daljit Singh and Baba Gurdit Singh including those eight passengers and remaining passengers should be sent to Ludhiana through a train.³⁶ Passengers were asked for the train but they insisted to go to Calcutta. They wanted to perform some business in Calcutta. All the passengers moved for Calcutta. In the way chief searched of Bengal government Mr. Cumminp and council member of Governor William Duke asked the passengers to stop at *budge-budge* port.

After reaching the port these officers asked passengers to go on the ship. But passengers were chanting hymns of Rehras Sahib. A European officer tried to call Baba Gurdit Singh during prayer, but passengers advised him to wait and he invaded passengers with a stick. When one of the passengers caught his stick, he killed the passenger by shooting a bullet. After that all police officers started firing and 19 passengers were

³¹ Written statement of Daljit Singh, *Akali Leader Conspiracy Case*, pp.1202.

³² Baba Gurdit Singh, *Zulmi Katha*, Shrimoni Gurudwara Prabandhak Committee, Amritsar, 1998, pp.133.

³³ *Ibid.*, pp.137.

³⁴ Malwinderjeet Singh warraich Dr. Gurdev Singh Sidhu, *Komagamataru A challenge to Colonialism, Key documents*, Unistar Book Chandigarh 2014, pp.174.

³⁵ *Ibid.*, pp.119.

³⁶ *Ibid.*, pp.218.

killed in this incidence and the remaining passengers ran away in darkness of night.

Darkness created an atmosphere of ambiguity Passengers were separated from their fellow passengers Darbara Singh Mallan and his companion were successful in rescuing Baba Gurdit Singh from there.³⁷

Police was firing on armless passengers. Daljit Singh thought it better to ran away from there. Daljit Singh also ran away from there and spent that night at a strange place.³⁸

At that time Daljit Singh met one of his companion passenger whose name was Tehl Singh. Both of them remained with each other for many days. They were remaining during day time and marching during night. One day they reached a home where they were told that Police is searching and arresting passengers of *Komagatamaru* which made them alert and they started living in a more careful manner.

Again Daljit Singh and Tehl Singh started for a strange journey. They reached a village after remaining hungry and thirsty for many days. People showed sympathy for them and one person kept them in his home. They were getting all the news from newspaper. After remaining there for many days they reached Punjab through a train. He lived in Punjab at different places by hiding his identity. Daljit Singh asked for help and told everything to Sikh-organisations. But nobody helped him due to fear of government.

Daljit Singh tried many times to bring truth before the people but newspapers refused to published the incident of *Komagatamaru* due to fear of government. In that way after incidence of *Komagatamaru* Daljit Singh remained in a period of recession for nearly 7 years.

After that moved to Amritsar and started working for a newspaper there. There he met many sikh leaders and started working with them and started contributing in Gurudwara Reformation Movement along with other Sikhs. By this time he again returned to his public life. Daljit Singh (Rai Singh) and Intelligence Department.

Daljit Singh s/o Malook Singh, Village Kauni, Police station Muktsar, District Ferozpur, studied from Khalsa school Amritsar. He remained as a Secretary with Baba Gurdit Singh and before the journey of Komagatamaru, worked as co-editor for magazine PUNJABI BEHN He remained in recession after the incident of Budge-budge. He became public in May 1923 and soon became active in Nabha agitation. He was punished for six year imprisonment under 124 AIPC by provincial officers in 1923 which was suspended in 1926 on the condition that he will never enter in region of province in future. He was nominated in Akali Leader Case but the case was suspended. After his freedom from prison he became secretary for three organisations Family Assistance Committee, Foreign Khalsa Diwan, and Desh Bhagat. He was considered to be a leader of modern political thinking. He was thinking about writing the history of Komagatamaru. He was elected as Deputy President of Shiromini Akali Dal in Dec, 1926 and was founder of statement criticising the policy of Maharaja of Nabha in favour of government during congregation of

³⁷ Sohan Singh Josh, *Akali Morcha Da Itihas*, RC Publications, Delhi, 2000, pp.487.

³⁸ Written statement of Daljit Singh, *Akali Leader Conspiracy Case*, pp.1205.

central Sikh league of Hosiarpur in 1927. He also participated in agitation of Gurudwara Sees Ganj Delhi and was also involved in Boycott of Simon Commission. He congratulated Pandit Moti Lal Nehru and Dr. Sayad Mohamad being arrested as styagrahis during a common conference in Muktsar in July, 1930. Now he is manager of local Gurudwara Committee. He is fearless. His close contacts are-Naurang Singh Ghali (local labour-farmer union), Sardar Mangal Singh (co-editor Akali) Baba Khadak Singh, Sardool Singh Kaveeshar and President local Congress Committee Sunder Singh.

Recognition- Ears are marked, closes one eye while talking, age 40-45 years, height 5 feet 4inches. Can speak and write Urdu English and Gurumukhi, displays politeness while talking.³⁹

Daljit Singh s/o Malook Singh Village Kawini, Muktsar, District Ferozpur(Punjab) was Co-Editor of magazine Punjabi Behn, During incident of Komagatamaru Daljit Singh helped Baba Gurdit Singh and worked as secretary during the journey. Daljit Singh possesses a dairy about journey which proones him to be a serious person. He is missing after the incidence of Baz-Baz and cannot be traced till now. Ferozpur Committee has sent his name in the list of five most dangerous persons of the district..⁴⁰

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³⁹ Director Intelligence Bureau Home Department, Government of India 29 March, 1934.

⁴⁰ CID Report Gadhar Directory Punjab Section, Vol.4, 1913-1915