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■■ lost heroes

In Punjab, among those who are aware of the history of revolutionary movement against the British Empire, the names of 3 Maharashtrian men are taken with special respect.

Savarkar, Rajguru & the generally little-known martyr, Vishnu Ganesh Pingale.

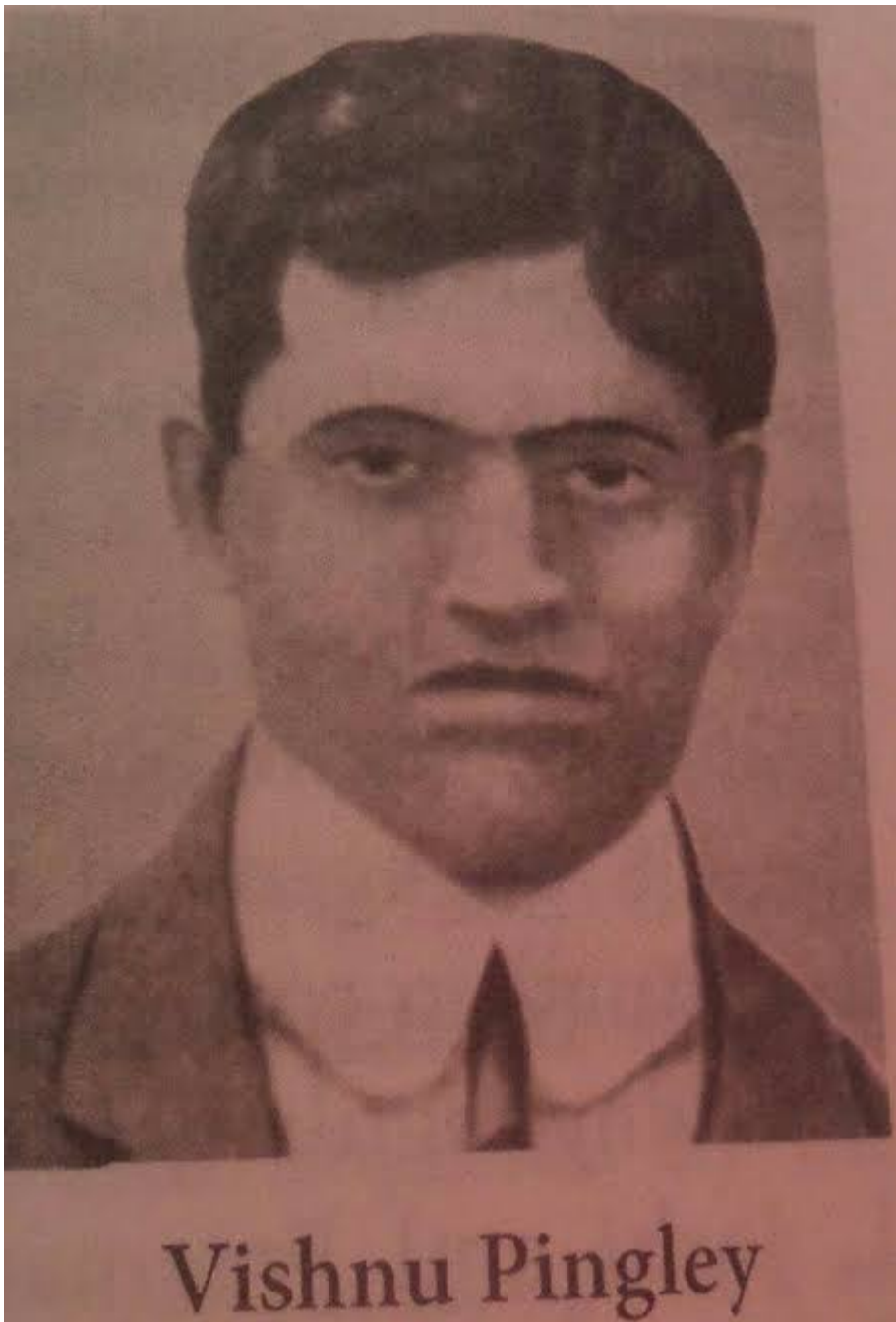
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Actually, Pingale was one of those who had inspired Bhagat Singh, as Bhagat Singhji's diaries show.

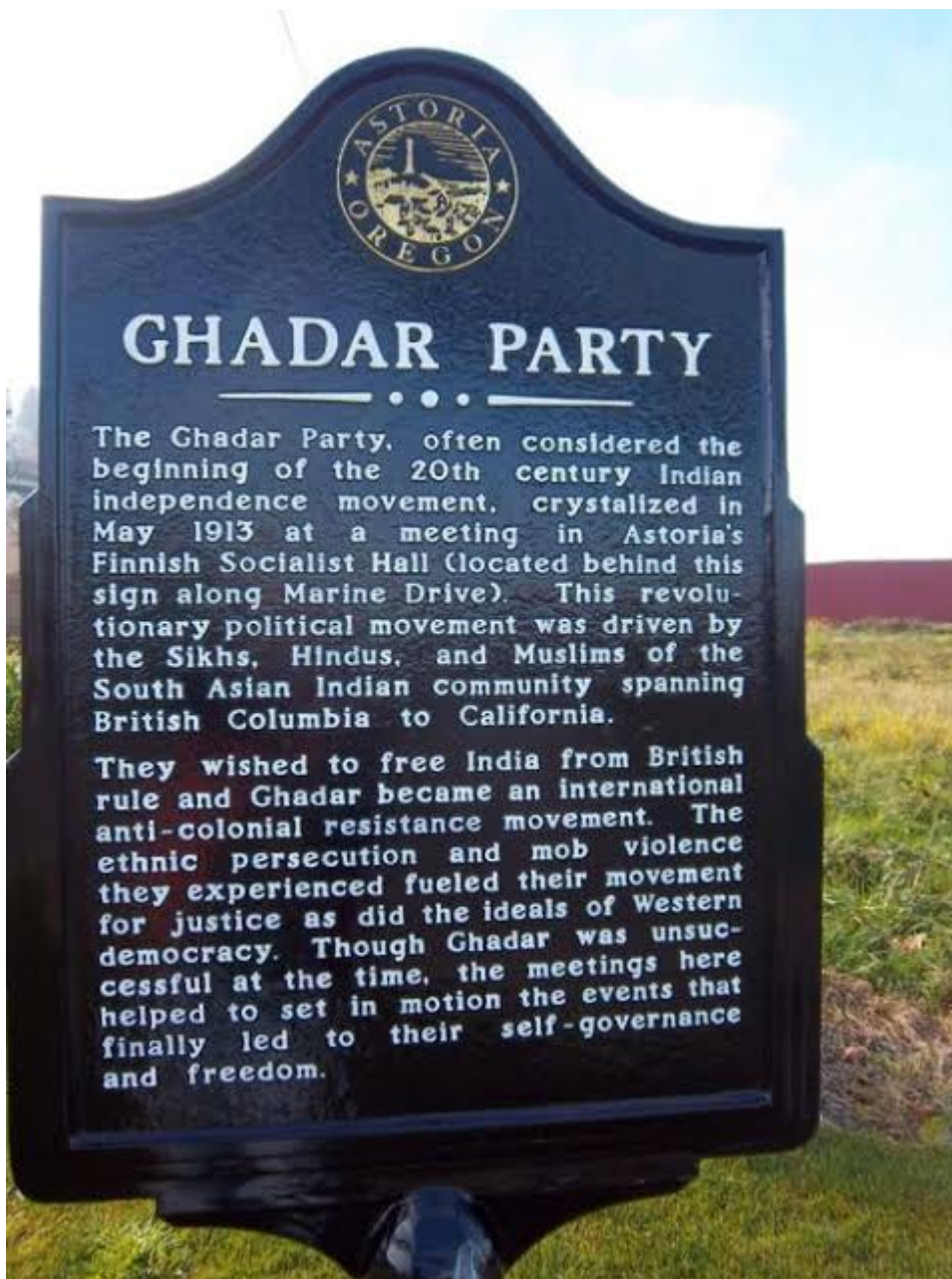
Pingale was born on Jan 2, 1889 in Maharashtra & was hanged to death at Lahore on Nov 16, 1915.

2/



Along with Lala Hardayal, and Dr. Khankhoje, he formed a revolutionary organization in the US, called the 'Ghadar Party'.

A man with great organisational skills, intelligence, & dynamism apart from his native Marathi, he had mastered Hindi, English, Urdu and Punjabi.



While at school, dressed as a Sadhu, Pingale had traveled all over India. This art of disguise later became very useful to him as a revolutionary.

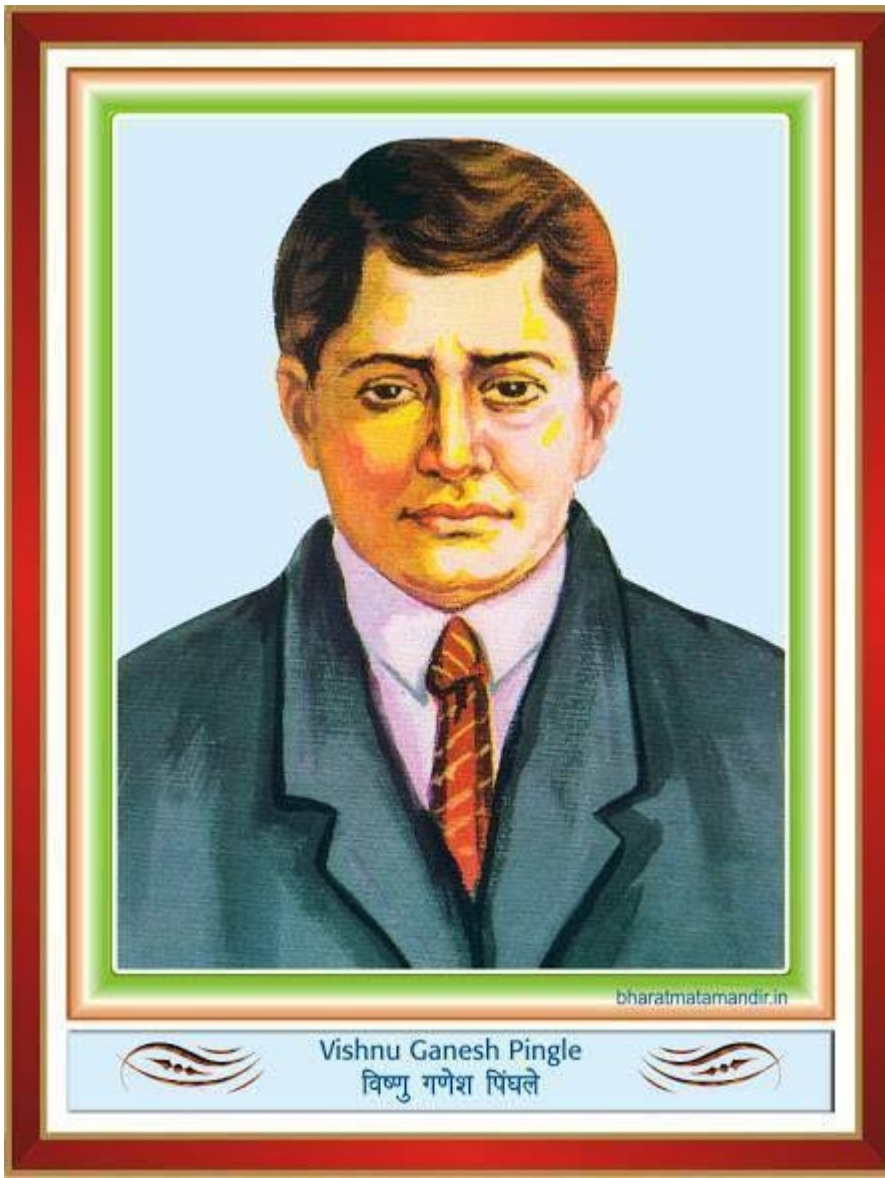
He earned a mechanical engineering degree while in the US.



As the 1st World War raged,Pingale came to India with the aim of liberating the country through armed revolution

He traveled throughout the Punjab region & met various revolutionaries.

He further traveled to Calcutta, Benaras & other places inviting people to join the revolution



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On March 1, the Indian army was to be sent to Europe. There had to be an uprising before that.

But, the plan failed.

Somehow, Pingale & Rashbehari managed to evade arrest. And undeterred, they devised another plan for revolution.

8/



Visiting the cavalry at Meerut again, Pingale prepared the Indian soldiers there to rise. While here, Pingale handed over some vital material to an Afghan Dafedar. That was Pingale's undoing. For, the treacherous Dafedar took the material straight to the police.



Kartar Singh



Gurdit Singh



Kanshi Ram



Amir Chand



Rahmat Ali Shah



Sohan Lal



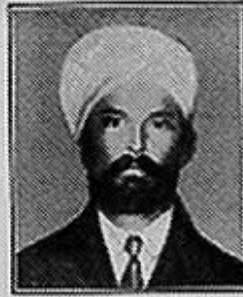
V. G. Pingle



Jiwan Singh



Jagat Singh



Kehar Singh

The above are among the 400 who have been hanged during 1915 and 1916.

PHOTOS COURTESY. RAN CHANDRA 1916

Pingale was caught & tortured. In the end, he confessed to the authorities about his involvement in the revolution, but in such a way that he would get the death penalty but many others would be saved from it. Ultimately, he & his 7 fellow-revolutionaries were hanged at Lahore.



Thus ended the saga of a lion-hearted martyr to the cause of India's freedom from the British.

He deserves our salute and remembrance.

11/

