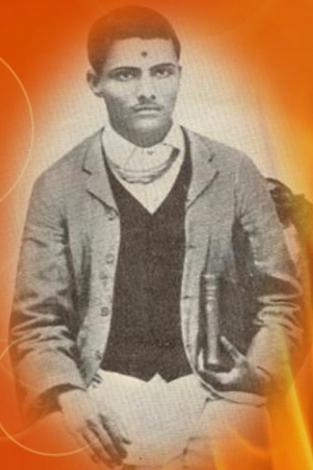


Savarkar: The Great Escape

Part I

Written and Narrated by:
Anurupa Cinar





VINAYAK DAMODAR SAVARKAR

(MAY 28, 1883-FEBRUARY 26, 1966)



Vinayak Damodar Savarkar was the intrepid and resourceful leader of the revolutionaries fighting to free India from the clutches of the British Empire. The British had expended considerable energy and ingenuity in contriving to get a warrant issued by the Government of India to extradite Savarkar from Britain to India in order to face trumped up charges there. The *SS Morea*, the ship taking Savarkar to India, was to dock at Marseilles, France. This created a diplomatic situation. The British government needed to get an extradition order from the French government in order to take Savarkar through French waters. Instead, with an utter disregard for diplomatic protocol, a mere letter written by Sir Henry, Commissioner of Police, London, to Monsieur Hennion, Chief of Police, Paris, was deemed sufficient.

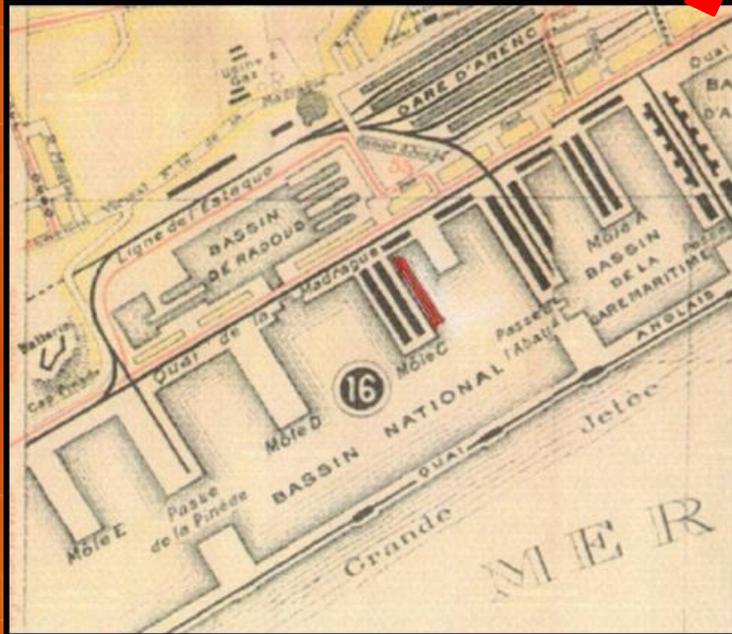


- On July 1, 1910, the *SS Morea* set sail with Savarkar. Accompanying him were his official guards: Deputy Superintendent of Police, Bombay Presidency, Mr. C. J. Power, with 16 years of service in Bombay city and Mofussil Police plus experience in unusual extraditions; head constable Muhammed Siddik of the CID branch, Poona; and head constable Amarsingh Sakharamsingh, Nasik police. Mr. Parker, Detective Inspector of Police, New Scotland Yard, London, travelled with them to aid Power.

Parker's double significance: 1) he was a representative of the British government, as opposed to Power being a representative of the Government of India – India, as a subject-nation, had no standing in France or in any international matters; and 2) he could speak French fluently. Both these facts could be of great value if any trouble arose in Marseilles.

Mole C, where the SS Morea was docked:

- SS Morea shown in red, alongside the quay.
- red line: tram lines
- black lines: l'Estaque line.
- Bassin de Radoud: dry docks
- thick black bars: sheds.

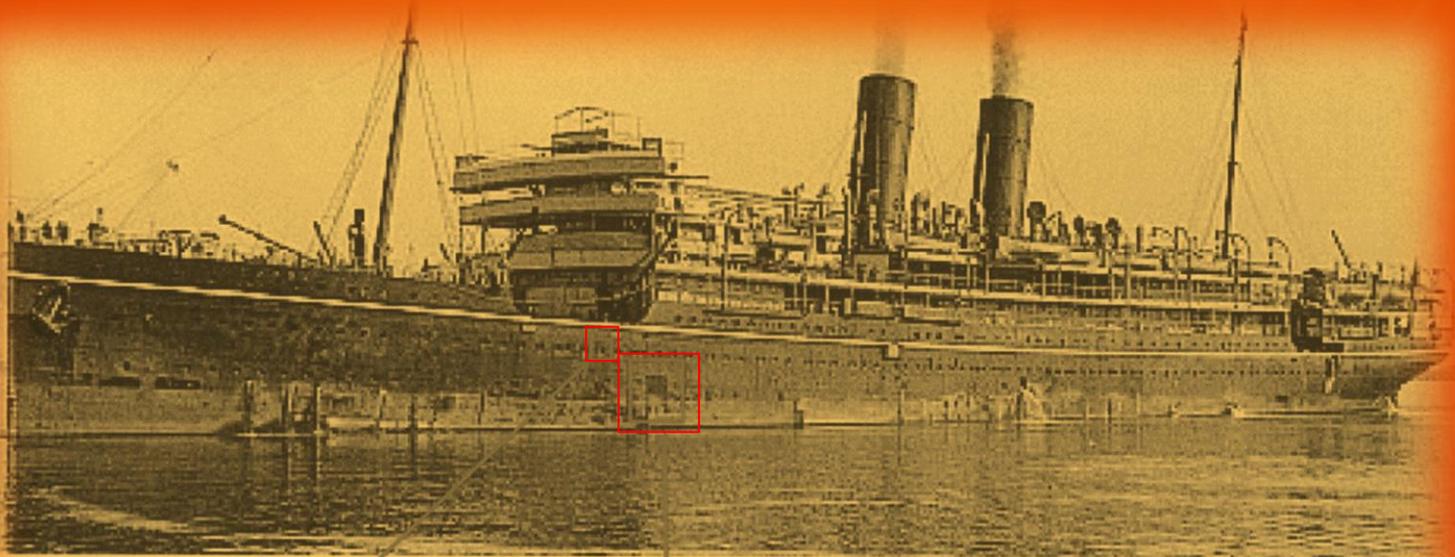


➤ The Old harbor is often mistaken as the harbor where the SS Morea was docked.

OLD PLAN OF MARSEILLES HARBOR



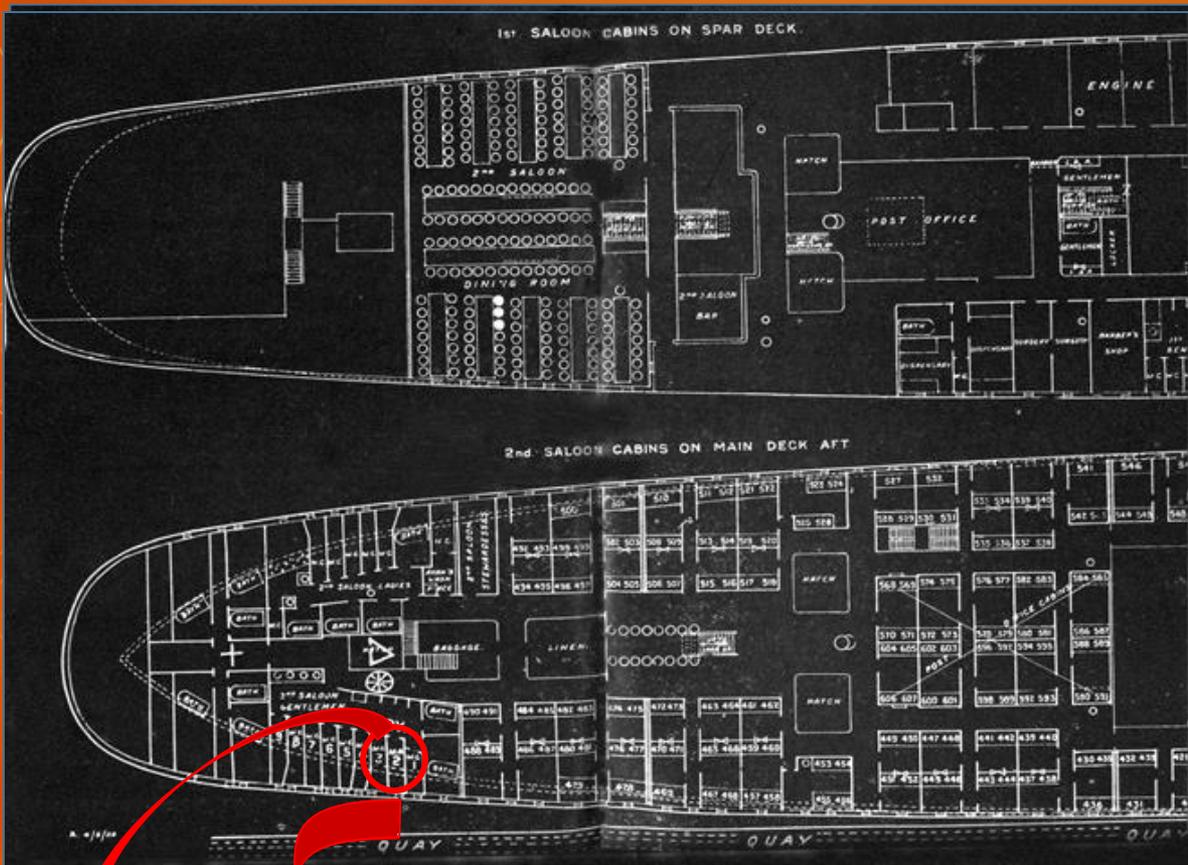
THE COMING SLIDES ARE PLANS OF THE SS MOREA DOCKED AT MOLE C (Plan height 30' above the water, 21' above the quay)



Porthole Savarkar jumped
from

Location of disembarking ramp



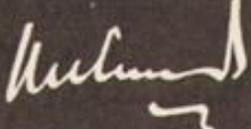


W.C. # 2

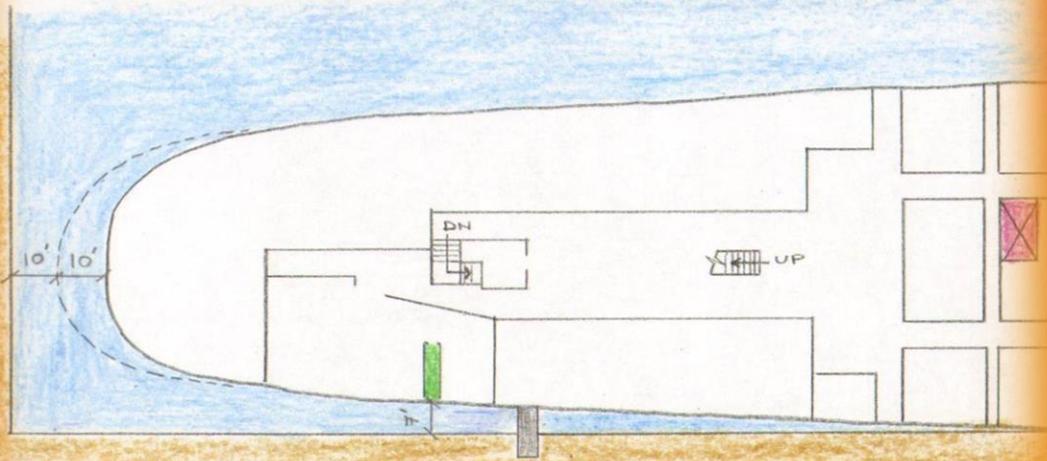
6' -7' distance between SS Morea and the Quay @ the W.C. # 2 from the porthole of which Savarkar escaped.

Notes to Exhibit III. (Plan of the P. & O Company's S. S. "MOREA" received from the Superintendent of that Company.

1. The block shown in blue chalk thus  indicates the cabin occupied by Messrs. Power and Parker and the prisoner V. D. Savarkar.
2. The three small circles marked in red chalk in the second saloon dining room thus  indicate the seats occupied by Messrs. Power and Parker and the prisoner (the last being seated between the former two) during meals.
3. The place marked with a cross in green ink thus  indicates the spot where the head constables had stored their kit boxes.
4. The place marked in green ink thus  indicates the spot from which Inspector Parker observed the head constables coming towards him when he was taking the prisoner to the lavatory on the morning of the 8th July 1910.
5. The block shown in green chalk thus  indicates the water closet (Water closet No. 2) from which the prisoner escaped.
6. The lines in red ink thus  indicate the position of the quay in reference to the ship.
7.  represents the hatch on which the head constables used to pass the night.


Inspector General of Police.



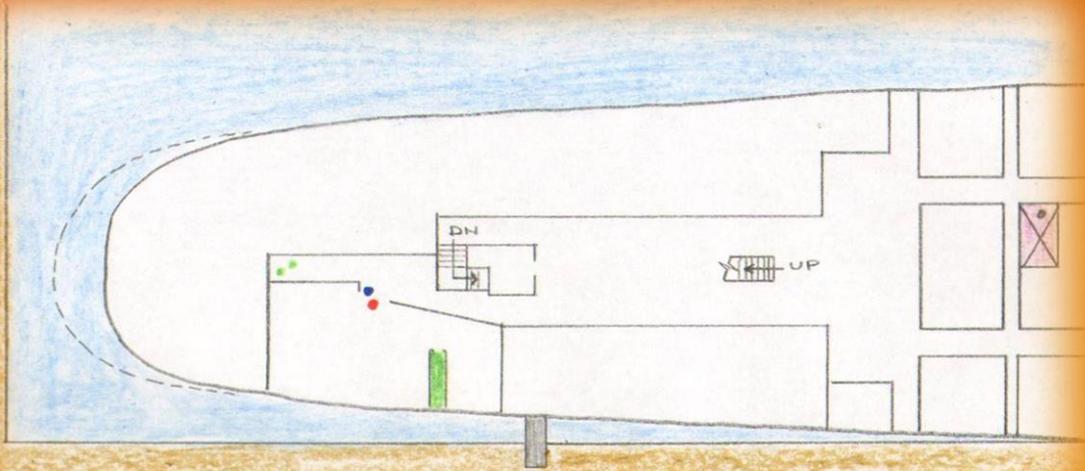


Time: Just before 6:15 a.m. Savarkar asks to use the toilet and Parker is just about to escort him there. Power is still sleeping. Amarsingh and Siddik are stirring awake @ the end of the passage.

- pink box is the cabin of Savarkar, Power, and Parker
- brown is the quay
- blue is the sea water
- green is the W.C. #2 inside the Men's restroom
- gray is the disembarcing ramp @ quay level
- center staircase: goes up to dining room-spar deck
- second staircase goes to disembarcing ramp deck
- dotted line outline of spar deck above.

SCHEMATIC PLAN SHOWING RELEVANT AREAS AS EVENTS ARE POISED TO UNFOLD



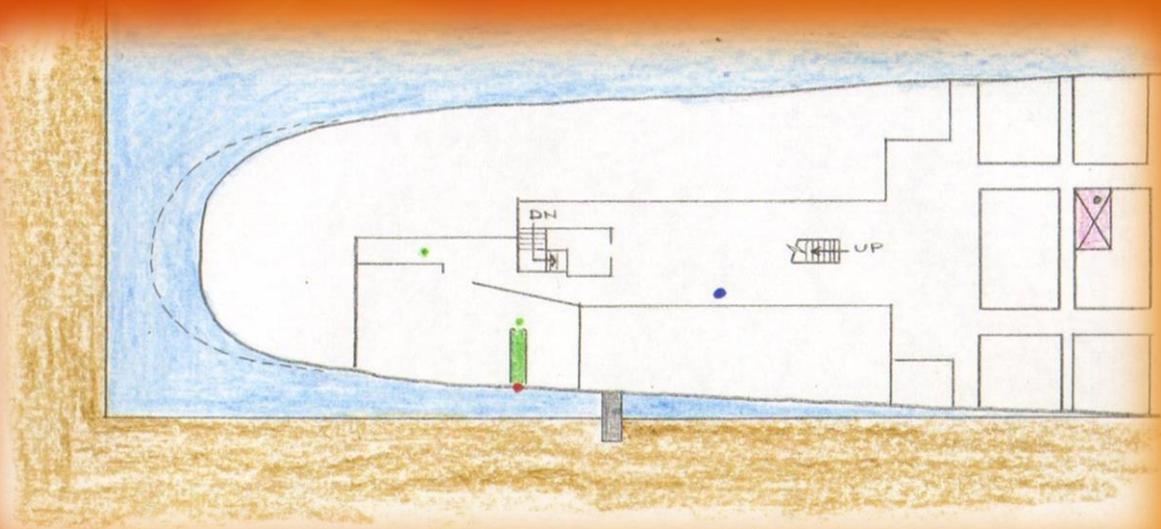


red dot: Savarkar
 green dots: Amarsingh & Siddik
 blue dot: Parker
 gray dot: Power

- Amarsingh and Siddik's view of Savarkar and Parker was obscured by the projecting wall.
- Savarkar quickly slips into the W. C. # 2 and shuts the door.
- He covers the glass panel with his bathrobe as Parker steps out to call the constables. Parker comes into the toilet again (probably to use the urinal.)
- Per the routine, Amarsingh starts off to the cabin to collect Savarkar. Parker notices that and whistles him back toward the toilet.

PLAN WHEN SAVARKAR ENTERS THE TOILET



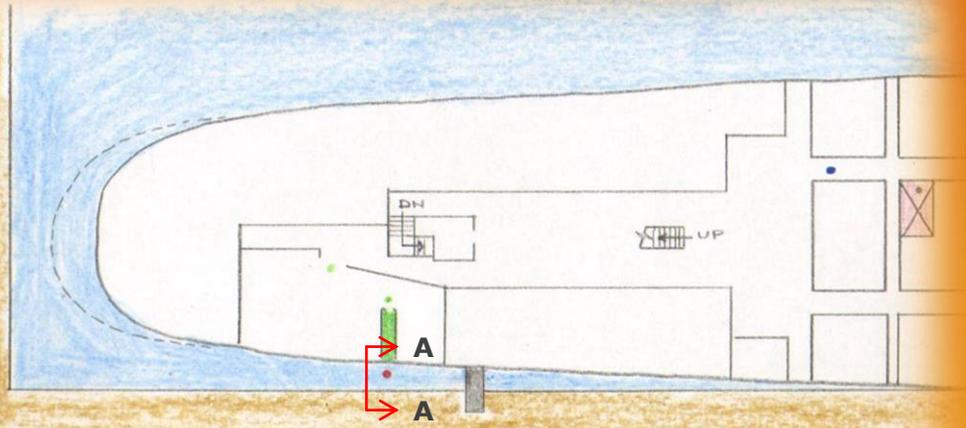


- Parker leaves before Siddik reaches the toilet.
- Amarsingh peeps over the W.C. door and to his horror sees Savarkar half in-half out of the porthole.
- He starts shouting and tries to open the door, but the bolt holds fast.
- He then smashes the glass panel, brushes aside the bathrobe, and sees Savarkar's disappearing body.
- At this moment Siddik enters the bathroom

red dot: Savarkar
green dots: Amarsingh & Siddik
blue dot: Parker
gray dot: Power

PLAN WHEN SAVARKAR IS SQUEEZING THROUGH THE PORTHOLE





Official story:

➤ At this point, according to the head constables they immediately rushed up to the spar deck, saw Savarkar running 20 paces off the quay, and ran down the ramp to give chase. Power and Parker remained uninformed and clueless of this tremendous calamity that had befallen them.

There are some serious problems with the scenario that the British official report paints. The accounts of all the guards here enters the Realm of Implausible.

red dot: Savarkar
 green dots: Amarsingh & Siddik
 blue dot: Parker
 gray dot: Power

PLAN WHEN SAVARKAR HAS JUST JUMPED FROM THE PORTHOLE



FALLACIES IN THE OFFICIAL REPORTS GIVEN BY BRITAIN AND FRANCE

1

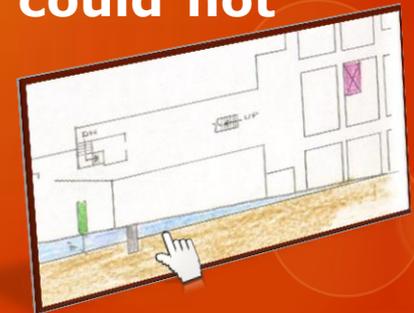
- **Why did the constables go up to the Spar deck instead of down to the ramp?**

2

- **Could Savarkar have dived into the water, swam, climbed up the nine-foot sheer wall and run 20 paces in the time it took the constables to go up one flight of steps to the Spar deck?**

3

- **The constables were trained to follow orders, not take initiative. Would the Indian constables have rushed off on French soil, where they had no jurisdiction, and could not speak the language?**



FALLACIES IN THE OFFICIAL REPORTS GIVEN BY BRITAIN AND FRANCE

4

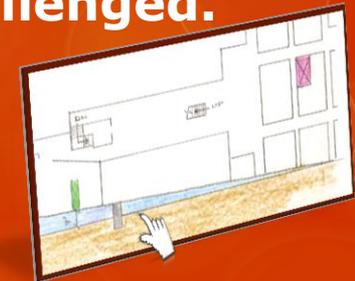
- **Would they not have, instead, rushed to their superiors with the tale? Would not Parker, the only French-speaking one among them, white, and from the British government body, have been the logical one to chase after Savarkar?**

5

- **Parker had lied to his superiors in Britain from the get go (the officials admit to it in the secret papers.) He had submitted a carefully doctored account initially, deleting all mention of the participation of even the head constables.**

6

- **That reveals his familiarity with the international consequences of Savarkar's escape. Had the matter not been made public, this account would have stood unchallenged.**



THE MORE LIKELY SCENARIO

1

- For security, Indians were not allowed to disembark this time plus on French soil who was likely to recognize authority of two natives? No one!

2

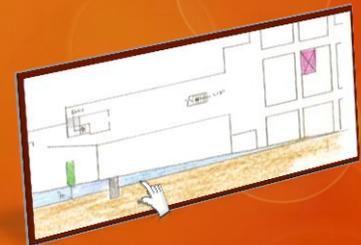
- Most certainly, the two constables rushed to the cabins of their superiors to tell this tale of horror.

3

- Certainly, both Power and Parker were aware that they had no jurisdiction over Savarkar now nor authority to extradite him from France.

4

- They must have been comforted by the thought that Savarkar had no place to go from the water—the sheer quay wall was nine-foot high. How could he get to the top?



THE MORE LIKELY SCENARIO

What to do?

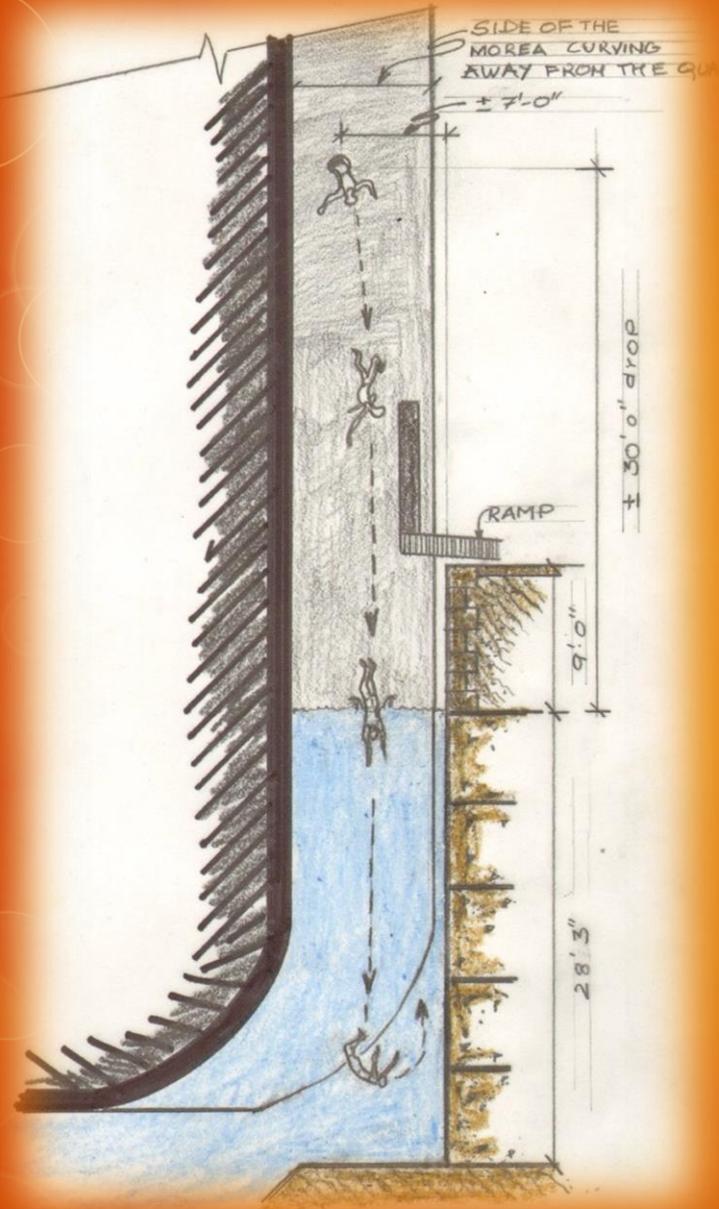
That was the question
before them!



- The lifeboats and the ladders to climb down were accessed from the deck. And so was the Bridge (to get the Captain's permission.)
- They had no expectation that Savarkar would actually climb the wall and reach safety!

That is why they went up to the deck, rather than down to the ramp.





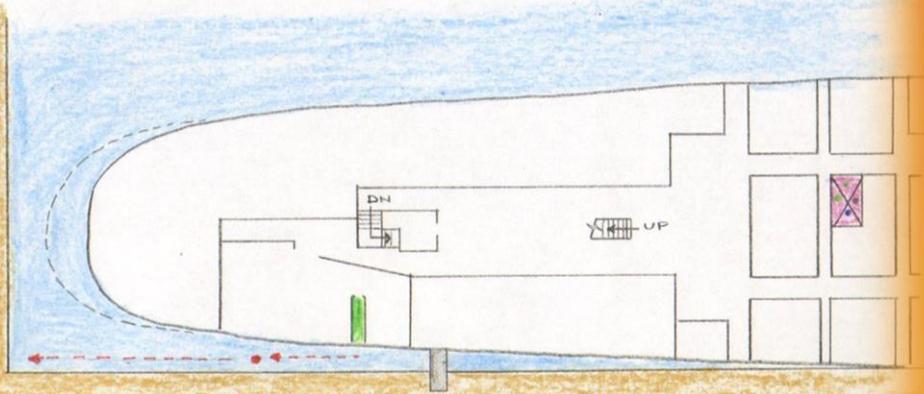
As soon as Savarkar was free-falling out of the porthole, he was in French jurisdiction. He had made it!

Acute dangers of Savarkar's jump:

- Would he fall on the quay instead of in the water?
- Would he hit his head at the bottom?
- What was the best position to minimize the impact of the water?
- Could he manage to maneuver his body into that position?
- Could he hold his breath long enough to turn and rise up?

SAVARKAR'S DARING JUMP



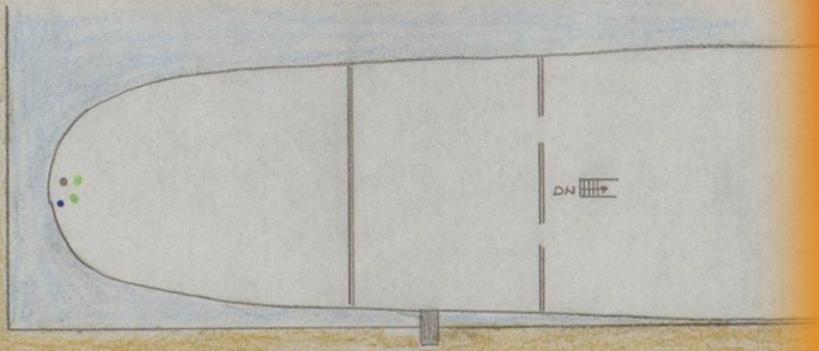


 Pesquie's official story leaves much to be desired. He claimed that he saw Savarkar jump from the porthole – and yet he was not there to greet Savarkar at the top of the quay wall when he climbed out.
Strange!

- It is around this time that the last crucial character, Sergeant Pesquie, of the Marseilles Maritime police, enters the scene.
- Pesquie's beat had, perhaps, taken him to the other end of the Morea, which was 540' long, and maybe he had his back turned toward Savarkar's porthole as well. It is unlikely he actually saw Savarkar jump, for he would surely have taken some action.

PLAN AS SAVARKAR IS SWIMMING

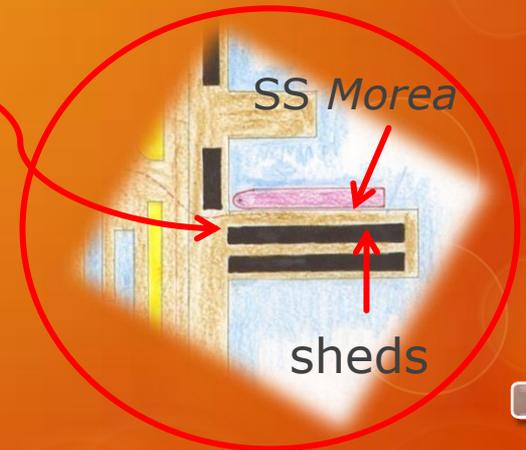




- From the Spar deck Savarkar's four guards spot him when he is 20 paces away on the quay and start yelling.
- Pesquie hearing the commotion gives chase.
- Parker, Amarsingh, Siddik, and Slavin (head steward) rush downstairs onto the quay.
- That Parker was involved in the chase is per my more likely scenario; the official British report claims he was unaware of the incident until after Savarkar was brought back.

Why would Savarkar swim to the far end before climbing out?

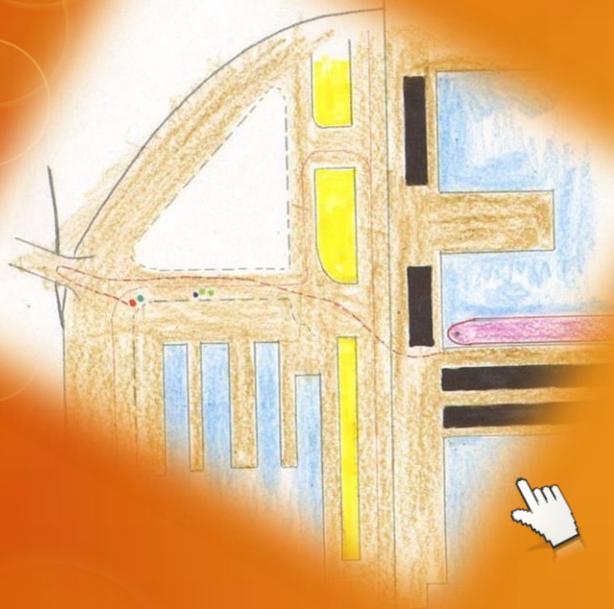
- The only opening between the sheds was at that end. Far safer to swim invisibly in the water, than make a run on the quay. Besides, his jump was too close to the ramp.



PLAN AS SAVARKAR RUNS AWAY



PLAN OF SAVARKAR'S ESCAPE ROUTE



- The desperate chase is on
- On the road beyond the end of the dry dock, some dock-workers stop Savarkar and point out Pesquie running behind.
- Savarkar turns back and goes up to Pesquie, surrendering himself to French police in French jurisdiction.
- By this time Parker & co. had reached there. Parker convinces Pesquie to take Savarkar back to the *Morea*.
- One constable grabbed Savarkar by his neck, other by the left wrist, and Slavin by the right arm. Pesquie grabbed Savarkar's right wrist.
- At the gangway of the *Morea*, Power was there (standing safely within his jurisdiction); he takes Savarkar into custody. Pesquie leaves.

And Savarkar was kidnapped back to British jurisdiction!



OBVIOUS ISSUES THE HAGUE ARBITRATION SHOULD HAVE ADDRESSED:

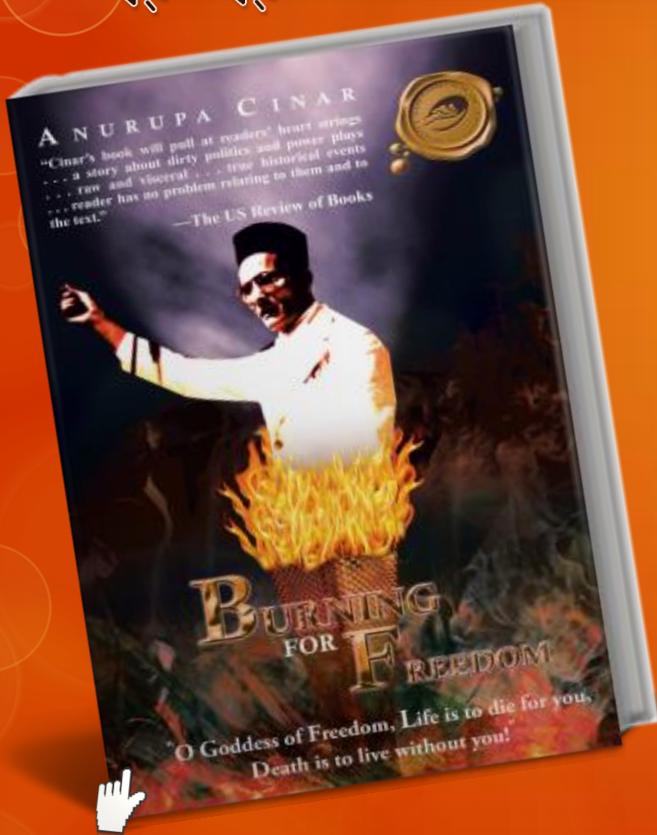
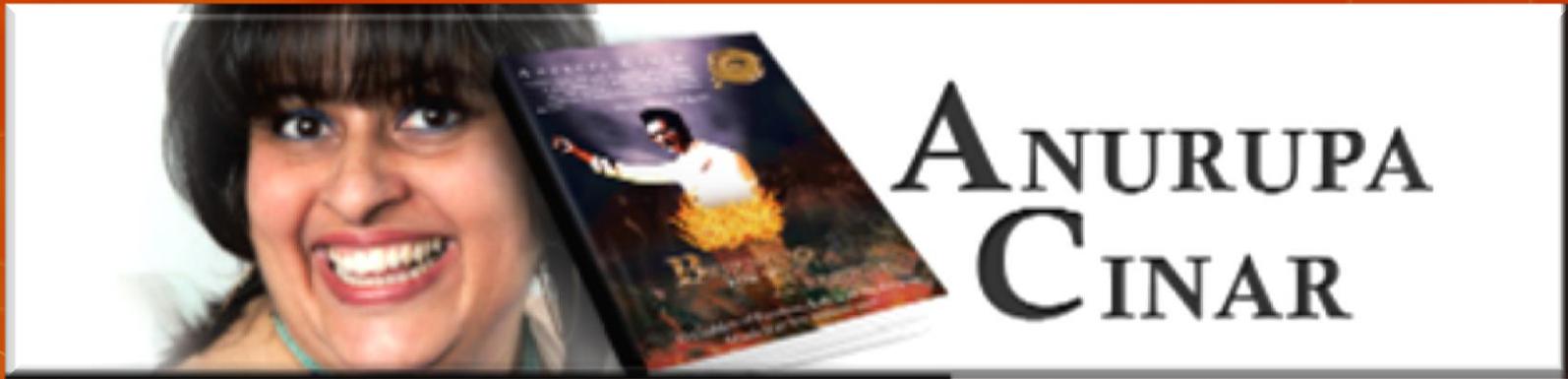
- The time-lag between Savarkar's jump and the guards giving chase
- The conflicting accounts of where Savarkar was handed over
- Pesquie's claim he did not recognize Savarkar as the special prisoner
- Did Pesquie, a maritime police only, have the power to make a civil arrest?
- Where was the captain in all this?
- Why was there no account from some truly independent witnesses? Even Slavin?
- Where were the other 7 sergeants assigned to protect the ship?
- Why did the French police not take any action in the 24 hour at their disposal?

Why didn't they address any of them?!!



This is the saga of Savarkar's magnificent escape revealed in all its glory!





www.anurupacinar.blogspot.com

www.anurupacinar.com

Author Video

Book Trailer

Find *Burning for Freedom* @ www.amazon.com www.bookadda.com

