

TAMRALIPTA
NATIONAL
GOVERNMENT

Paramdal



BANGA BHUSAN BHAKTA

954.035
1 B 469 G

954.035
1
B 469G

GARAMDAL
TAMRALIPTA NATIONAL GOVERNMENT

GARAMDAL

TAMRALIPTA NATIONAL GOVERNMENT

BANGA BHUSAN BHAKTA

BAKPRATIMA
MAHISHADAL ❖ MIDNAPORE
WEST BENGAL ❖ INDIA

4-11-99

FIRST EDITION : 8th August, 1999

© Reserved by Author

Cover : Somnath Ghosh

ISBN : 81-86717-59-5



Library

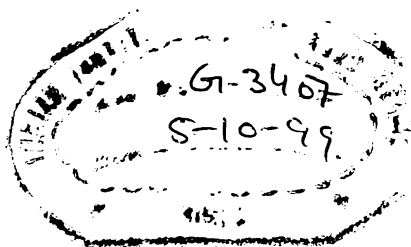
IIAS, Shimla

Rs. 100/-



G3407

954.035 1
B 469 G



Published by Haraprasad Sahoo, on behalf of BAKPRATIMA, Mahisadal,
Midnapore and Printed by Arun Kumar Dey, RADICAL IMPRESSION,
43, Beniatola Lane, Calcutta 9.

To
All oppressed & ravaged
Mothers and Sisters
by
the Military & Police
on January 9, 1943

Other Book of Author

NANDIGRAME SWADHINATA SANGRAM
(in *Bengali*)

FOREWORD

Gandhi has a gigantic moral presence in the imagination of the millions of people even after serious efforts to undermine his role, ideas and politics by people who stood against the core of the national movement. One of the basic principles that he stood by was non-violence. But did non-violence means suffering without protest ?- This was a question that was repeatedly posed to Gandhi. And his answer was that accepting injustice without protest is as unjust as the injustice itself. He also insisted that protesting against injustice is not violence in itself so long as the means are non-violent.

The people of Midnapore had, since 1921, expressed their faith in the doctrine of non-violence in their movement against the salt laws, increased taxes, and other punitive measures of the colonial authorities. Starting from the organized opposition under the leadership of Birendranath Sasmal, to the imposition of taxes seven times higher than the normal, till the establishment of the parallel Government during the Quit India Movement, Midnapore was one of the epicenter of the Gandhian movement based on the principle of non-violence.

However the same practitioners of Non-Violent movement turned against the British authorities and some of local population whom they thought were collaborating with the authorities in a violent way in the winter of 1942. Was it a violation of their own professed faith in the Gandhian principles.

Mr. Banga Bhusan Bhakta, a young man in those tumultuous day, recounts with the help of his knowledge of the times that the supposedly violent means adopted were purely in self defence and did not violate the basic principles of non violence. It was, as he recalls, that a large number of military and local police surrounded four contiguous villages on 9.1.1943 at dawn and then subjected the entire population to cruel atrocities. 49 women, of the age group ranging from 16 to 52 were raped. As a consequence, the Sarbadhinayak at the centre of the Parallel government decided to constitute a Garamdal

(Action Squad) to protect the women and innocent population. In addition, they prepared the list of traitors and informers who had and who had been helping the Military and the police and the people shortlisted were given punishment by the Squad. As there were no alternative but to change the nature of protection even by the veteran Gandhian leaders Mr. Bhakta believes in spite of the apparent show of violence, the submission to Gandhi's call of non-violence was a stable faith. The deviations from it were due to the reasons created by the colonial authorities by making the situation unbearable for a mass of people. The fact that all member of Jatiya Sarkar and National Militia, the Price of whose head was fixed by the colonial authorities from Rs 5000 to Rs. 1000, courted arrest as soon as Gandhi's call to stop all secret violent activities came on 29 July and 6 August 1944, goes to prove this.

Gandhiji's faith in non violence was total and measuring upto that standard was always a Herculean task. And that is why his opinion about the entire matter was that what the people did was "brave and glorious" but they deviated from the path of non-violence." And it is a kind of profession of faith and defence of the non-violent approach which makes Mr. Bhakta's work interesting for the generation which does not yet know the power of Gandhi's ideas.



Director

Tue, 25 May 99

Indian Institute of Advanced Study
Rashtrapati Nivas
Shimla

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

A long cherished project for Garamdal–Tamralipta National Government from within and outside, by a continuing efforts of collection, the draft project however took a shape in October, 1998. Immediately, I started for Delhi to my daughter–Banishree and PH. Falisse— my son-in-law as they are my friend, philosopher for future advancement. After discussion, both of them inspired me and a ritual coincidence opportunity reached within our easy reach. Dr. Rakesh Batabyal. Ph.D. a fellow engaged in multidisciplinary research project on Gandhi in Indian Institute of Advanced study, Shimla came to Mr. PH. Falisse in Belgium Embassy, New Delhi. He enquired of a costly comment about Garamdal as "Garamdal had appetite for murder published in an American journal with reference to a Book "Nandigrane Swadhinata Sangram" by B.B. Bhakta. Mr. PH. Falisse requested him to come to his residence and discuss with the Garamdal Project work with me. He was so much interested that he had gone through pages after pages for more than three hours. On report of Dr. Batabyal, I was invited by the Director of the Institute to attend a Seminar on the 17 th. Nov. 1998 as a visiting Scholar for a week. As I am of 80 years, I hesitated as this was November and there was chance of snow-fall. But my youngest son Sri Anutosh encouraged me and followed me like a shadow, carried portarage on his back, discussed night after night from different angles and always helped me with references in the lecture hall on the hill-top. Similarly, every moment another one Amitava Goswami reminded me in the plain, always supplied with references. I remember them with deepest affection. I expressed my regards and gratitude to Dr. Batabyal and Prof. Mrinal Miri, the Director of the Institute to organise Seminar on the topic "What Gandhi said and what we did—A leaf from the history". Dr. Miri was on the chair and he helped me showing continuing kindness allowing hours together with chronology of freedom struggle since 1931 to 1942. Quit India Movement, as we did from non-violence to violence.

I would like to thank Sri Nagendranath Ray, Author of "CHUARD BIDROHA" and "UNISH SHATAKER MEDINIPUR", Mrs. Rina Pal Ph.D. for her project work "WOMEN OF MIDNAPORE in INDIAN FREEDOM STRUGGLE" and Sri Tapas Singh Ray both are close associates with me as research

scholars, had encouraged me with considerable inspiration.

Sri Radhakrishna Bari, Secretary, Tamralipta Swadhinata Sangram Itihas Committee, supplied lots of information from Records of Itihas Committee. I am thankful to him.

First and last, always I must express my gratitude also my debt to Sri Gopinandan Goswami, the then G.O.C. of Mahisadal Thana Jatiya Sarkar. His verification relating to authenticity of the executed activities by Garamdal, enriched this project in every stage. I must confess unhasitatingly that my endeavour could never come to light but his cordial encouragement in all respect, and his publications "BANGLAR HALDIGHAT TAMLUK" and "Swadhinata Sangramer Ghatanapanji". I shall ever remember with gratitude that Sri Haraprasad Sahoo, publisher Bakpratima, Mahisadal for his endless troubles for beautification of "GARAMDAL" in all respects.

In this connection, I would like to mention of other members of my family without whose assistances my existence might have been abolished on earth.

On the 17th February, 1999, on my way to Midnapur with the full copies of manuscripts to the press concerned for final printing, I became the victim in a serious bus accident and shall have to be bed-ridden for complete two months. I was then in a great despair regarding the fate of my project work. Sri Bishwa Bhusan Bhakta, my younger brother as whole time companion looked after me, took all care for me. Every moment, loving face of Tanushree (wife of my youngest son was reflected before my eyes as she spared her time and energy for days together to copy out times without number the corrected manuscripts copies again and again. After accident, some of the pages of manuscripts were damaged and to be reconstructed. Tirthankar and Dipankar, my two grandsons helped me by copying out for final typing. My affection with best wishes to all of them.

Last of all, consolation with assurance from my sons and daughter—Banishree and PH. Falisse, my son-in-law to complete the desired project was the real medicine and tonic for my early recovery. My deepest affection to all my well wishers. May God bless them all.

The 1, June, 1999.

Banga Bhusan Bhakta.
"Jabakunja"
Contai, Pin – 721401.



[SYMBOL OF TAMRALIPTA NATIONAL GOVERNMENT]

List of Sarbadhinayaks, Adhinayaks & G.O.C.'s with there tenure of Services

SARBADHINAYAKs (Directors) OF TAMRALIPTA NATIONAL GOVERNMENT

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| 1st Sarbadhinayak | : Satis Chandra Samanta (17.12.42 to 26.5.43) |
| 2nd Sarbadhinayak | Ajoy Kumar Mukherjee (27.5.43 to 19.9.43) |
| 3rd Sarbadhinayak | Satish Chandra Sahoo (20.9.43 to 12.3.44) |
| 4th Sarbadhinayak | Barada Kanta Kuiti (13.3.44 to 8.8.44) |

ADHINAYAKs (P.S. Unit's Directors) of Thana (P.S. Unit) NATIONAL GOVERNMENT Mahisadal P.S.

| | |
|---------------|--|
| 1st Adhinayak | Nilmani Hazra (26.1.43 to 5.3.43) |
| 2nd Adhinayak | Barada Kanta Kuiti (6.3.43 to 8.8.44) |

Sutahata P.S.

1st Adhinayak

Dr. Janardan Hazra
(26.1.43 to May '43)

2nd Adhinayak

Rash Behari Jana (2nd)
(May '43 to 23.6.44)

3rd Adhinayak

Debendra Nath Kar
(24.6.44 to 8.8.44)**Nandigram P.S.**

Adhinayak

Kunja Behari Bhaktadas
(26.1.43 to 8.8.44)**Tamluk P.S.**

1st Adhinayak

: Gunadhar Bhowmik
(26.1.43 to December '43)

2nd Adhinayak

Priya Nath Jana
(December '43)
[1st & 2nd Adhinayak resign
on health ground]

3rd Adhinayak

Amulya Charan Maiti
(December '43 to 8.8.44)

Bidyut Bahini-o-Bhagini Sena (National Militia of Tamralipta
National Government)

G.O.C.s OF P.S. UNITS

Sushil Kumar Dhara was an organiser of Bidyut Bahini-o-
Bhagini Sena and Chief of GARAMDAL.

Mahisadal P.S.

1st G.O.C.

Sushil Kumar Dhara
(26.9.42 to 29.4.43)

2nd G.O.C.

Gopinandan Goswami
(30.4.43 to 8.8.44)**Sutahata P.S.**

Bidhu Bhusan Kuiti (26.9.42 to 8.8.44)

Nandigram P.S.

Banga Bhusan Bhakta (26.9.42 to 8.8.44)

Tamluk P.S.

Narendra Nath Jana (26.9.42 to 8.8.44)

G.O.C. of Bhagini Sena

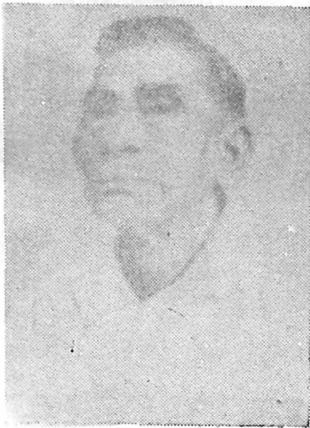
Sm. Subodh Bala Kuiti (19.10.42 to 8.8.44)



SATIS CHANDRA SAMANTA



AJOY KUMAR MUKHERJEE



SATIS CHANDRA SAHOO



BARADA KANTA KUITI



NILMANI HAZRA



KUNJA BEHARI BHAKTADAS



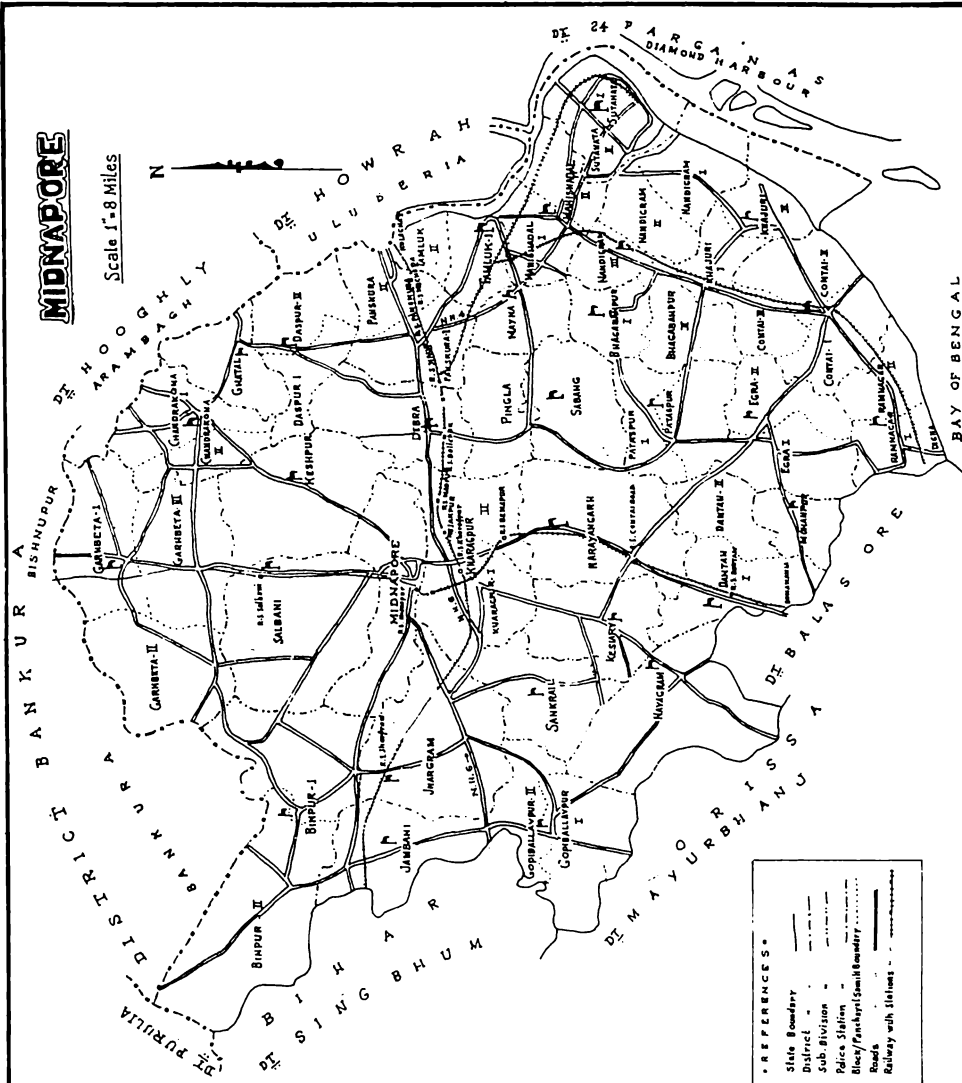
DR. JANARDAN HAZRA



SUSHIL KUMAR DHARA

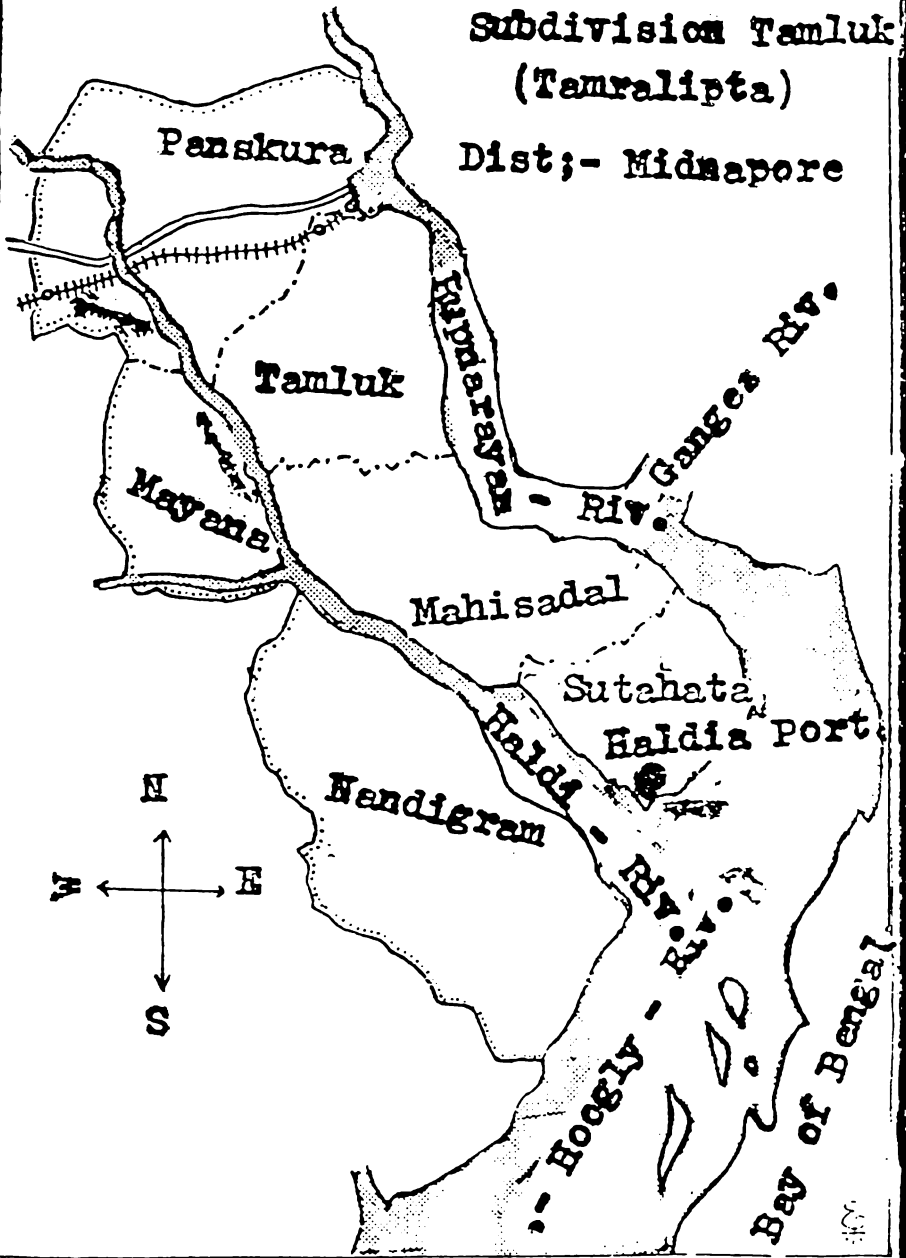
MIDNAPORE

Scale 1"=8 Miles



Subdivision Tamluk
(Tamralipta)

Dist;- Midnapore



CONTENTS

| | | |
|-------------|--|-----|
| CHAPTER I | : Introduction | 19 |
| CHAPTER II | : Perplexity of Quit India Movement and National upheaval at a glance. | 24 |
| | Activities of Congress leaders before A.I.C.C. Meeting at Bombay. | |
| | Thoughts of Gandhiji reflected in the Hrijan. Glimpse of August Movement in other Provinces. | |
| CHAPTER III | : August Revolution in Tamruk. | 35 |
| | Why and when Garamdal was formed. | |
| CHAPTER IV | : Formation and Activities of Garamdal (Action Squad) | 43 |
| | Mahisadal Thana Jatiya Sarkar | 45 |
| | Sutahata Thana Jatiya Sarkar | 58 |
| | Nandigram Thana Jatiya Sarkar | 72 |
| | Tamruk Thana Jatiya Sarkar | 84 |
| CHAPTER V | : Amazing Adventure of Ajoy Kumar Mukherjee, the Second Sarbadhinayak. | 90 |
| | S.K. Dhara, C-in-C and Garamdal Chief under the Enemy custody and his release on bail. One Sportive and thrilling performance of Sarbadhinayak in the interest of Jatiya Sarkar. | |
| CHAPTER VI | : Activities of Jatiya Sarkar During The Period of Third and Fourth Sarbadhinayak | 100 |

**CHAPTER VII : Gandhiji at Mahisadal. His Reflexion
on Violent Activities. 105**

CHAPTER VIII : Conclusion 109
Estimation of Garamdal of Tamralipta
Jaitya Sarkar in Midnapur

APPENDICES

**APPENDIX – (i) : Letter from Mr. Mrinal Miri, Director of
Indian Institute of Advance Study,
Shimla No. 425- 3 Nov. 1998.**

**APPENDIX – (ii) : Subject Matter of discussion in the
Seminar.**
What Gandhi said and we did : A leaf
from history.

**APPENDIX – (iii) : Letter No. 499 from the Director 25
Dec. 1998**

**APPENDIX – (iv) : Statement of raped woman on January
9, 1943 (Pages 50-53). Two years
Freedom struggle in Midnapur by
Samanta, Bhattacharji & others.**

**APPENDIX – (v) : Extract of minutes of the Managing
Committee of Kalyanchowk Gourmohon
Institution held on Sunday the 10th
January 1943.**

CHAPTER—I

INTRODUCTION

I had an opportunity to unveil the activities of "Garamdal Action Squad" of Tamralipta National Government in Midnapur District, during the Quit India Movement in a seminar, on invitation, by Indian Institute of Advanced study, Shimla as a visiting scholar. The subject matter of discussion was — "What Gandhī said—what we did— A leaf from History" (Appendix ii) — Freedom struggle in Midnapur — period 1931 to 1944.

The Seminar was attended by the Young research scholars, renowned doctorates, expert Fellows and associates of universities from different states of India. Some elderly participants freedom fighters of Balia and Satara also joined the seminar as invitees.

Following the chronology of historic phenomenon in the recent past struggle upto '42 August Revolution two vital questions were raised —

1) What went wrong that the staunch followers of Gandhi turned in a violent way?

2) Did they shun believing in Gandhi or they left believing in his leadership ?

In the seminar Mr. Mrinal Miri, the Director of the Institute was in the chair.

After independence, on appreciation, India Government declared significant highest award for unique August Revolution to the districts—Midnapur, Satara and Balia. My experience in the seminar at Shimla left me in despair. It is truism to state that very little venture has yet been taken to docket systematised classification or categorisation of activities and also of the activists in this struggle for freedom in Midnapur. As a result, neither detailed material is available nor information can be supplemented by other collections preserved elsewhere. By this time more than fifty years passed away.

Most of the prominent congress leaders who were supremo in action and the associated participants are no more with us. Hence verification problem and authenticity of the incidents stood on way for young scholar in research work. In my opinion, only local and zonal history can record documentation to solve the problems. Besides, extorted facts published recently, on information of absolutely imaginary and incredible cock and bull stories in periodical journals and monthly magazines by some ignorant and motivated person, created problem, leading the scholars, and the future generation as a whole. In this way, voluntary individual bravery and also contributions to the Indian Independence struggle during Quit India Movement by Jatiya Sarkar, Prati Sarkar and parallel government established in different states are in darkness. Their glorious activities remain unknown and cannot be evaluated in proper light.

In this context, I like to draw attention to three such attempts in connection with irrelevant remarks about Bidyut Bahini and Garamdal of Tamralipta Jatiya Sarkar in Midnapur :-

1) "Gandhiji condemned the violent activities of the Sarbadhinayak of Tamralipta Jatiya Sarkar as "Goondaism" in Desh Patrika dated 17th Dec. '84, P-84 by Dr. Amallesh Tripathi under the title "Bharater Swadhinata Sangram -O- Jatiya Congress" in Bengali.

2) "The whole movement was led by and with the active participation by the Youth belonging to low-caste, illiterate mass in Midnapur" in Desh Partrika dated 6th Nov. 1993 by Dr. Amallesh Tripathi under the title "Patabhumica, Adarsha Rupayan" in Bengali.

3) "During Tebhaga Movement national soldiers of Bidyut Bahini and Bhagini Sena dressed in Khadi arrested the peasants of Tamluk Sub-division jointly with active participation of local police. They looted and set fire on their houses and even murdered them".¹

1. 'Sabder Michhil'—'Medinipur Jelaya Tebhaga Andolan' 15th year issue 2 (January – June '98) published by West Bengal Ganatantrik Lekhak Shilpi Sangha "by Midnapur District Committee Secretary Ajahar-Uddin Khan, Pg – 52.

Tebhaga means two-third produce claimed by peasants

The other costly remark passed : –
"Garamdal had appetite for murder".

To repudiate allegations (1) & (2) attention of readers are drawn "Garamdal in Sutahata" Title "Realisation of fine" to find out the reasons and to realise the motivated action of the writer.

As to complaint against Bidyut Bahini, I only reiterate my appeal to recall in readers' memory that Tebhaga Movement was started in the year 1946 whereas Tamralipta Jatiya Sarkar was wiped out, two years back with all branches and all activities stopped in September, 1944 on call of Gandhiji.

It is, however, an expected coincidence that I have been called on by Indian Institute of Advanced study, Shimla, to attend the seminar just at the moment I completed the manuscript on the matter "Garamdal" or Action Squad of Tamralipta Jatiya Sarkar (National Government). I was very much inspired to docket the activities of Jatiya Sarkar and my objective to make an attempt in this endeavour to highlight the documentation executed by Garamdal. I am conscious of my limitation as to linguistic inertia and weak in proper analytical expression of the views.

Quit India Movement in Midnapur district as a whole was non-violent and was confined within picketing, procession on protest for arresting congress leaders upto September, 1942.

On the 29th September, 1942 all Police stations of Tamluk sub-divisions were surrounded by the non-violent processionists.

All kinds of communication Telegraph and telephone lines were destroyed.

Pits about 4 feet deep, on all connecting main roads and link-roads from the district headquarters to 6 police stations of Tamluk sub-divisions were disconnected. More than 20 calverts were removed. Police and military killed 39 non-violent processionists including 73 years old lady Matangini Hazra and the under aged youths. The only exception was P.S. Sutahata where the O.C of P.S. and all other police staff surrendered arms and records. They were so unnerved and frightened by the vast assemblage of processionists that they did not take any attempt to defend themselves anyway. Although from the air above the sky, the copter tried to bombard the processionists, that was fruitless as the bombs fell down in a pond. The result

6-3407

was the leaders of congress workers took possession of the police station.

After two or three days, military with local police began to raid village after village, set fire on houses of congress workers and to arrest innocent people in mass scale in whole of sub-division.

In October 16, the whole district was devastated by the water-spout in the Bay of Bengal and deadly typhoons with cyclone, sub-divisional officer of Tamruk promulgated sec. 144 in the area. Non-Official relief organisation was not allowed to enter into the flood areas. Relief materials with them were confiscated.

Newspapers were gagged. Suddenly, on 9.1.1943 at dawn, a large number of military and local police surrounded four contiguous villages of Mahisadal P.S. and then subjected the entire population under cordon with inhuman atrocities. Then 49 women in age group from 16 to 52, irrespective of married, unmarried, widows even the expected mothers were raped by more than 5/6 soldiers one after another in presence of their sons, daughters and other senior members of the family. Due to flood 90% of the people were in starvation and became homeless. All paddy fields were submerged under water.

In the midst of such internal crucial situation, almost every now and then either from collections of speeches of Subhas Chandra or direct by his name from Barlin and Rangoon broadcasting were announced that he was marching forward. (to join the freedom struggle of Independence.)

Just after flood and typhoon, Tamralipta Jatiya Sarkar was established on 17th December, 1942 mainly with a view to save people with food and shelter. Bidyut Bahini of Jatiya Sarkar was formed for proper distribution of relief work, repair of coastal embankments to protect ebb-tide during full moon and first day of new moon in every fortnight and also far-reaching apprehension of foreign attack when Jatiya Sarkar might demand to hand over the administrative power to the established formal national government of the people, by the people and for the people.

My endeavour, in this pursuit, is to discuss the formation of "Garamdal" Action Squad and the activities executed by the veteran followers of Gandhiji in the administrative machinery

of Jatiya Sarkar and to record in a systematised way to describe in a serialised chronological order to justify the question of violence adopted why and when. I am fully conscious about this herculean task as there is himalayan difficulty relating to authenticity and verification of incidents in one side as most of the activists are no more among us. On the other side, my benign submission is that there are shortfalls and limitations regarding linguistic inertia and weak analytical expression of the views.

Still then, I have only benison in courage that Shusil Kumar Dhara, the executor and as chief of Garamdal is with us and he bears testimony to most of the incidents executed by the Garamdal.

Many of the activists of Action Squad are no more. I feel myself indebted to them as those direct participants awaited in the same queue with me to be garlanded with the hanging rope. Hence their names have been incorporated in pages of each Thana Jatiya Sarkar seperately so that their future generation may not be deprived of national pride.

CHAPTER-II

PERPLEXITY OF QUIT INDIA MOVEMENT AND NATIONAL UPHEAVAL AT A GLANCE

ACTIVITIES OF CONGRESS LEADERS BEFORE A.I.C.C. MEETING AT BOMBAY

On the 2nd of September 1939 Second World War flared up in Europe. British Government in India without having any prior exchange of views with Gandhiji or any Congress Leader or other political parties declared by a proclamation in early 1940, India to be a partner with the imperialistic British Power in this war. But Gandhiji called for Individual Satyagraha in 1940 to be observed by his faithful followers with slogans purporting not to help the colonials with a single man nor a smallest coin of money. Stafford Cripps was sent to India with some proposal to pacify the agitated Indian sentiment. But his mission was not acceptable to any of the political leaders. India's freedom from foreign yoke remained far away like an alluring mirage.

So, the failure of Cripps Mission, abnormal social and economic situation and unnatural increasing price level of the time, denial policy of Govt. in Coastal areas of the Bay of Bengal for chance of foreign aggression, created such burning and intermenting reflections in the minds of veteran leaders, that their activities were eventually converged to the resultant practical action, namely "42 August movement", calling the colonials to "Quit India", an open challenge thrown upto their face.¹

On July 14, 1942 Murarji Desai urged in the Congress Working Committee meeting held in Wardha for immediate jumping on a movement of the Civil disobedience nature. But just after the resolution being passed, Ballav Bhai Patel returned to Gujrat and in Public meetings delivered series of

firy speeches at Ahamedabad, Kheda, Surat and met national leaders of Baroda state, Sourashtra; Maharastra and pressed them to join the agitation.²

He assumed them to believe that Congress would not interfere if some people lost their temper and took drastic and even dangerous action against the British Government during the struggle, nor would Gandhiji show his disapproval in that connection.³

On July 27, 1942 Ballav Bhai again delivered his speech "If all the Congress leaders are arrested tomorrow and if there is no time to meet you again, you should carry on the programme set-forth before you by Gandhiji from 1919-1942. "Die but do not fall back in the struggle, if instances like Viramgram occur or the railway line is removed or an Englishman is murdered, the struggle will not be stopped".⁴ At last on 1st August Patel went on to Bombay for the arrangement of A.I.C.C. meeting scheduled to be held on 7th and 8th August, in Bombay. He planned for campaign of sabotage on 9th early hours and just before his arrest it appears probable that he passed on these plans to a congress man in Gujrat who somehow escaped arrest.⁵

THOUGHTS OF GANDHIJI AS REFLECTED IN THE HARIJAN

Gandhiji said, "My life is my writ of statement" (আমার জীবনই আমার বাণী). We also do believe and is being renovated our core of heart. Whenever he thought any thing noble all auspicious and beneficial to the mankind he had been always boldly reflected same without hesitation. His thoughts, then published in the Harijan, during March to August 1942, before his final decision relating to Quit India Movement, may act as dictum to us.

Those reflected meditation inspired the leaders of presonality in Midnapur specially the leaders of Tamluk to form Tamralipta Jatiya Sarkar.

In connection with war between the Axis Power and the Allied Forces, Gandhiji said, " Every individual was to consider

himself free and act for himself". He even conceded—" that the masses could take up arms in self defence, arms assistance against a stronger and well-equipped aggressor was to be considered a non-violent Act"⁶. He was convinced "In case of Japanese attack on India, the British would withdraw from the country as they have done in Malay and Burma, leaving unprepared India to bear the burnt of aggression."⁷

He opined "It is firmly believed that only independent India could effectively defend the country against the Japanese and against the Fascism as a whole."⁸

Gandhiji was anxious to end British Rule before the war reached the shore of the country. He decided to proceed in every possible manner to prepare and guard from the supreme act getting the British to withdraw from India.⁹

Gandhiji said, "I waited and waited until the country should develop the non-violent strength necessary to throw off the foreign yoke. But my attitude has under gone a change. I feel that I have prayed and worked for, may never come in the meanwhile. I may be enveloped and overwhelmed by the flames that threatened all of us. That is why I have decided that even at certain risks which is obviously involved of, must ask people to resist slavery."¹⁰

In June '42, Lui Fisher wrote to him to know the opinion of Gandhiji "How could he expect his proposed movement in that stage help India as to show against much powerful British Power?"¹¹

On 16th May '42, Linlithgo referred to Amery about reporting by Newspaper as interview with Gandhiji about Japanese aggression "This disciplined lawful lawlessness if occurs in this situation what should be the result?" Gandhiji replied "In that case, that should at once be stopped and if as a result, if limitless lawlessness there be, will be shouldered by me."¹²

He also expressed his determination, "the Japanese must be cautious to reconsider if the British left India for good and if the British withdraw, the Japanese would be bound to consider

plans and in any case Indians should be left to tackle that problem in their own way through the non-violence.¹³

Gandhiji replied, "I will appeal to the instinct of people and I firmly believe, I am able to transfer my thoughts and power among them."¹⁴

In 1942, Mr. Amery, the British Prime Minister through the News Chronicle London, put a question to Gandhiji, "Whether Congress leaders had any moral responsibility in supporting the Russians or the Chinese, Gandhiji instantly replied, "If this be a personal issue then your question may be considered. In this present moment of circumstances people can never be influenced in favour of Allied Powers, even by exercise of earnest desire of congress united efforts." Mr. Amery further proposed, "By his supreme leadership he might have obedience of his counted a mount from outside. Still there are much limitations in question of independence."¹⁵

Sir Roger Humley, Governor of Bombay (1937-1943) reported to Linlithgo Viceroy, on August 27th "Confirmed that surmising of despatching Patel's plan of Sabotage at Bombay on 25th July when Patel told in an assembly of Congress workers in Ahamedabad, "It would not stop even if there was civil war or anarchy in the country and it spread over the whole world."¹⁶ On the 27th July, Patel also declared in the same meeting, "Face it boldly even at the cost of violence carry this to mass to every corner."¹⁷

Moulana Azad, the then Congress President of All India Congress Committee on an occasion of Cripps Mission discussion stated.

"Indian National Congress is not a statutory organisation for peace mission, this is for the complete independence of India.

"Indians have right to take sword if they had no other alternative".¹⁸

A Report of a meeting in Ahamedabad on 25th July when Patel was a president of P.C.C. said,

"It would not stop even if there was civil war or anarchy in the country and that would take the whole world. It would be

carried only the masses even if all the leaders were arrested by the government. The Congress would not interfere if some people lost their tempers and if took dangerous and drastic steps against the government during the struggle, nor would Gandhiji show his disapproval in that connection."¹⁹

T. Winchenden, on his official report on the agitation in Bombay later wrote about Patel, "It is likely that he had a more personal part in the actual issue of instructions of sabotage than any of the other leaders." He also reported "It appears probable that he passed on these plans to a congress—man who left immediately for Gujrat and escaped arrest."²⁰

During the next few days these sabotage plans appeared in underground Congress bulletin issued from both Bombay and Ahamedabad. The violent outburst protest in Gujrat thus occurred. With full support and according to the well publicized plans of the President of the Gujrat Provincial Congress Committee. [As to Ahamedabad National, Cronical (England) described as "The Stalingrad of India". strike in textile lasted for more than 3 months, Western India took the lead, further more, in using bomb. 664 bomb explosions recorded in India from August 1942 to January 1944, 447 i.e. 76% occurred in Bombay Presidency].

GLIMPSE OF AUGUST MOVEMENT IN OTHER PROVINCES

Leaders from all parts of India were assembled to attend A.I.C.C. Meeting on the 7th August at Bombay. They continued discussion upto 10 p.m. of 8th on the leadership of Gandhiji the resolution accepted.

"When it will not be possible to issue instructions or for instructions to reach on people and no congress committee can function, when this happens, every man and women who is participating in this movement must function for himself or herself within the four corners of general instruction issued. Every Indian who desires freedom and strives for it must be his own guide urging him on along the hard road where there is no resting place and which leads ultimately to the independence and deliverance of India.

Every one of you should from this moment onwards consider yourself a free man and woman and act as if you are free.I am not going to be satisfied with anything short of complete freedom. We shall do or die. "KARENGE YE MARENGE".

The resultant action was just after arrest of leaders at dawn on the 9th, a large number of people assembled in Goalia Tank Maidan and at Sibaji Park. An aimless non-violent procession led by students of universities, colleges and schools resounded slogan demanding immediate release of all national leaders. Before, Sec. 144 was promulgated in the city. Police and military obstructed the processionists and arrested many of them. When processionists tried to proceed ahead breaking police cordon, military fired on them. 8 were killed and 169 injured as per official report (non-official number must be more).

The account of massive and violent activities as collected from different sources jotted down in Modern India '1937-1945' by Sumit Sarkar within August 1942. (since 9th August) :-

Mostly the movement was started by the youth and students mainly in urban area included haratals, processions, picketing, destruction of communications — telegraphs, telephones, rail line etc.

In Gujrat, congress workers jointly with students on the 9th August, became violent and Telegraph, Telephone lines were destroyed and rail lines in some places were thrown off.²¹

Joyprakash and Rammonohar Lohia, Socialist leaders travelled vast areas of U.P. and Bihar particularly, Chanda, Amarabati, Betul, Bhandra where British administration were totally collapsed. Many government offices at Chimir were destroyed by fire. One officer and a Naib were guilty in assisting police for public oppressions were severely beaten and they breathed their last.²²

On the 18th rebel mass became aggressive in Ajimgarh, Basti, Gajipur and Mirjapur under the guidance of Chittu Pandey. At Balia, students of Benaras Hindu University and Allahabad University jointly inspired people of those areas to be militant against the British that they lost Singapore and subsequently Rangoon. The resultant influx was of the population group. Many workers also left Jamshedpur factory area.²³

They also mentioned news broadcasting from Berlin and Tokyo circulating in the voice of great patriot Subhash Chandra with assurance of active help from outside with expected credibility to free India. Similar news reached in name of Azad Hind Radio and Azad Hindusthan Radio in all provincial languages from the underground Indian Centres. Mass sentiment was inundated to a great extent resulting sabotaging exceeded normal unit.²⁴

Thus within 22nd August 65 Police stations were attacked. Even European soldiers were insulted with humiliation whenever opportune moment comes. 2 Europeans were murdered 2 Air Force personal were dragged and killed in a railway station as per official report.²⁵

It is reported that upto 14th August Balia district remained passive but on the 15th they got upper hand to organise students. By a telegram, Hallent informed Linlithgo that the whole town of Balia seen deserted.

On August 11, when peaceful procession assembled in Patna town area military troops jumped on them and killed 7 students by firing, many were also wounded.

On the 12th, activists attacked police station at Tegnara, Simarghat, Rupnagar and Bijaywara and in some cases office incharges were driven out of office. Government administration practically lost all control for 2 days.

Congress workers with youths and students jointly attacked Surajgarh, Chauthan, Tarapur, Lalganj and Katra Police stations of Mazaffarpur district and they killed one S.D.O. and insulted some police personal.

U.P. & Bihar : Tata Steel Plant was totally closed for 13 days from 20th August. The slogan in strike "They will not resume work until a national government is formed" People set fire in government offices at Chitor, one officer in charge of Subdivision, one circle officer along with a Nayab who was guilty in assisting in matter of Public oppression were severely beaten and they died.

Largest area of biggest province of U.P. were greatly agitated. Specially Balia became very much aggressive by the organised national military under leadership of Chittu Pandey. He inspired the rebellions in referring the Credit earned by Mangal Pandey, the father and ever shining hero who belonged to the District of Balia.

The fall of British Power in Singapur and Rangoon a large number of influx came to Kanpur increasing the number of population to 50,000. Worker from distant villages who came to earn livelihood left Allahabad and Benaras to join the rebel group.

Within 22nd August 65 police stations were attacked in Darbhanga, out of 25 P.S. 19 were in Mazaffarpur, out of 29 P.S. 25 in same District. European soldiers were insulted with humiliation, 2 European were murdered and 2 Air Force Personnel were dragged and killed in a railway station (as per official report). Rebellions were so well organised and so adventurous that they in open street at broad daylight led processionist rally by Tam-Tam loaded with dead bodies of those European soldiers till finally dumped into the Poon Poon river.

In Balia 10 police stations were captured and under the control of Balia sabotaging group warrior for about a week. They looted many Railway stations. Hallent informed Linlithgo by a telegram that the whole town of Balia seen deserted.²⁶

Temporary Jatiya Sarkar was established under leadership of Chittu Pandey and 5000 rural people were enlisted as national warriors. They used Lathis, spears, Plough-spears, long swords, and big sickles as war weapons. On 19th August the rebel mass attacked Balia District Treasury and burnt worth of Rs. 4,40,000/- currency notes.²⁷

Confirming the sabotage work by the students Hallent reported that villages at a radius of 212 sq. miles of surrounding many station, looked like desert areas.

Rebel national military established parallel government at Bhagalpur and Sultanpur in Bihar. There was no zonal

demarcation in between U.P. and Bihar, both national military worked as component part of each other. Police stations of Surajgarh, Chouthan, Tarapur and Halgunj and Katra P.S. of Muzaffarpur came under their possession. They killed S.D.O. and one police presonal by beating and whipping.

Prafullya Pattanayak an aboriginal leader helped national warriors by trained Guerillas in Madhupur, Dighwara, Raghunathpur & Baikunthapur.

People of Western Bihar was inspired by the alleged commitment of Axis Power to Free India. This sort of propaganda by Radio in Deri-on-sone was relayed almost daily.

Some Italian war prisoners while passing through Bihar area by train got down in some stations on way and dropped some leaflets on station platfoms. At the top " V " was printed with the words "this sign is about alarming defeat of British Power in the far east at the end names of Gandhiji, Subhas, Hitler and Mussolini as if this was circulated on behalf of them.

One day when rebellions were engaged to destroy one railway station in West Bihar a train loaded with sugar for consumption of military troops, Militant activists stopped the train. Guards and railway police were bound to surrender forcibly. For looting they sent massage to the people of local areas even from distant areas of Azamgarh reached and looted the Wagons.²⁸

Out of 995 Railway stations 200 stations were attacked and damaged, 200 post offices were set fire and the United rebel areas of U.P. and Bihar 16,796 and 16,702 were arrested in two provinces respectively. Police oppression and torture was so limitless that the sabotaging activities were shifted from town areas to urban areas and the decentralised parallel Sarkar became unable to continue after 2/3 months from 29th Aug. to early November.

Satara : Socialist leaders, Jayprakash Narayan and Ram Monohar Lohia managed to come out of custody and travelled distant villages of Bombay, U.P. Bihar, Orissa and even border

area of Nepal. Large number of leaflets "Red Sunday" were distributed among the aboriginals. It is significant that the underground activities appeared to be started in September '42. Reason of delay was people were unbalanced on police atrocities and repressions and they waited for leadership and signal from the neighbouring provinces. During the sabotage activities including Guerillas action man and woman became militant for rebel under the leadership of Nanaji patil. They established Prati Sarkar' parallel to existing administration. Besides, deadly destruction of communication system railways, telegram, telephone, they looted government armoury and collected arms from local sources too. They were engaged to fight face to face with police, arrested dacoits released from jail for looting, arrested traitors, informers, and punished judges who passed orders against the rebellions of Prati Sarkar, for non-payment of revenues. They by pursuation or by force moulded government officials to resign. Nanaji patil for implementation of his plan programme established Nayadan Mandal in 95 villages, 110 training centres were opened. For successful administration they engaged themselves in adventurous Khandesh Treasury robbery for finance and collected arms even from Goa.

Although the overall leadership and guidance of Prati Sarkar vested with Nanaji, it was with a rare significance that no authoritative, directives laid down upon the rebels, and Nayadan Mandal. Proper methodical decisive actions were wanting to run Prati Sarkar came to an end. The Prati Sarkar existed for 33 months.²⁹

Orissa : On the 28th August, under the leadership of Lakshman Nayak 2000 Volunteers processionists in Balasore, Cuttack and Koraput district protested British Raj. All of them were non-violent but at Matah in Korraput police fired on them and killed 6 and injured more than hundred. Another rebel processionists under leadership of Lachman Chandra Das before crossing a bridge police fired and killed 19 injured 140.³⁰

Assam : On September 20th while non-violent 5000 Volunteers under the leadership of Kanaklata Basu at Gopur in Darrang District, tried to enter into thana premises with National Flag. She asked the O/C and his staff, "unless the O/C and his staff wanted to act as public servants, they must clear out and allow the people to take possession of the place."³¹

-
1. Imperialism and British Power by P.S. Gupta, p. 357-359.
 2. Quit India Movement by R.N.Chopra, Dewan of Barada, P. 245.
 3. Ibid— Chopra, P. 256
 4. Ibid— Chopra, P. 197 & 198
 5. Ibid— Chopra, P. 199-202
 6. Harijan— 26th. March, 1942.
 7. Harijan— 26th. April, 1942.
 8. Harijan— 24th. May, 1942.
 9. Harijan— 31st May, 1942.
 10. Harijan— 7th June, 1942.
 11. Collected Vol. 76, P. 450.
 12. Mansergh. Vol. II, P. 961.
 13. Harijan — 3rd May, 1942
 14. Collected Vol. 76, P. 450 & 451
 15. Collected Vol. 68, P. 375
 16. File No. L.L.P. & 1/51/163
 17. Ibid— Chopra, P. 56 & 57
 18. Ibid— P. S. Gupta, P. 355
 19. Ibid— Chopra, P. 56 & 57 File No. L.P. & 1/5/163
 20. Ibid— Chopra, P. 199-200
 21. R. C. Majumdar, Vol. 3, P. 394 & 395
 22. F. R. Central Archives 1st Feb. 1942
 23. F. R. 1st & 2nd March 1943 and Bihar Govt. I.B. Report.
 24. File No. I-P-769 & F.R. 1st & 2nd March 1943
 25. Indian Nationalism 1942, edited by Gyanendra Pandey, P. 12-35
 26. Ibid— Indian Nationalism — do —
 27. File No. R/N/1/786, 29th Nov. 1942 Hallent reported to Linlithgo.
 28. File No. 3/1/19890 L. Hallent reported to Linlithgo.
 29. Ibid— Indian Nationalism. P. 51-62.
 30. Swadhinata Sangreme Medinipur, Vol. 3, P. 67 by Dr. Pal and Haripada Maity.
 31. Ibid. — do —

CHAPTER—III

AUGUST REVOLUTION IN TAMLUK

So far recorded from the Harijan about the reflection of Gandhiji, it was clear, in his direction to the whole nation. His views were explicitly open-minded to the belligerent parties concerned in Europe about the situation and also his future decisive verdict relating to the right chosen path open to the nation.

It is also discussed the preplanned activities of the veteran tested leaders of first rank in all the phases, non-violent freedom struggle, in the past since the beginning under leadership of Gandhiji upto the moment of resolved and declared "Quit India Movement" on the 8th August dawn at Bombay.

The combination, thus derived, pushed us back in the proverb "Coming events cast their shadows before" and the nature of movement in the states North to South and East to West in India were under the trend of both combined more in violence than non-violence. Ultimate result was direct influence of incidental uproars in whole of India.

We would not be ashtonished if the District of Midnapur be deviated in the mass upheaval specially when the leader came in contact with talented revolutionary personality like Aruna Asaf Ali, Rammonahar Lohia and other Socialist leader by this time, direct by or indirectly through Bulletins, Instructions issued secretly in series by A.I.C.C. and Congress committees of other provinces.

FORMATION OF TAMRALIPTA JATIYA SARKAR

After the arrest of all congress leaders and Gandhiji at dawn of 9th August, 1942, instant response was violence in the proximity of surrounding areas in Bombay along with almost

all other provinces from Himalayan range to Kanyakumari. The movement was spontaneous under the leadership of mainly students. Everywhere general mass also joined with them. Such rebel activists were exposed for their extreme passionate, stubborn reactionary attitude, might be due to the grounds prepared prior by the leaders. In fact, Quit India Movement called by Gandhiji was entirely different in nature when compared to those in the past in respect of its basic nature, as to intensity and pervading depth. Besides, people were inspired and had the inner feelings as a writ of order and direction from Gandhiji to follow the instruction as "Every men and women is their own guide". It seemed, they took the vow "Karengé Ye Marengé" as "Do or Destroy" instead of "Do or Die". as "MARO OR MARO".

Unlike other provinces before 29th August, Quit India Movement was peaceful and non-violent in Midnapur district, protest against arrest of leaders was within the limit of processions demanding release of congress leaders and in picketing as observed in the past as per constructive programme of Gandhiji. In the past, all freedom movements in the district of Midnapur were conducted strictly based on ideology — either violent or non-violent according to the different party leaders and organisers. Suddenly, the district authority arrested Kumar Chandra Jana, the president of Midnapur District Congress committee and Rajanikanta Pramanik the veteran leaders of Tamluk. At this, other leaders and congress workers decided to watchover and study the nature of movement with the view to achieve stability in the process of struggle. They were serious about how and when and in which way the processing of struggle could be actively channelised for a long term. It needed mentioning that all leading congress workers went underground incognito. Unexpectedly, just after a month Quit India Movement turned violent on the 8th September '42 when the Police fired on a non-violent mob of 500 local villagers and killed Sashi Bhusan Manna, Dhirendranath Digar and Surendranath Kar in the Campus of a rice-mill at Danipur in P.S. Mahisadal. The villagers assembled there to stop export of rice during the war period for the British Army depriving the people of the subdivision consisting of 1246 villages with total population of

7,53,152. This protest was neither organised nor directed by any congress leader. The attempt by the villagers around was spontaneous within a short span of time on local information. The mill owner was forced to be subdued to stop the operation of exporting foodgrains and rice and surrendered to them and paid fine Rs. 2000/-. This incident was the eye-opener to the Sub-Divisional top congress leaders and they immediately determined to be engaged to organise public sentiment and students for recruitment of Volunteers in 6 Police Stations—Nandigram, Mahisadal, Sutahata, Tamluk, Panskura & Moyna, so that a consolidated programme be taken simultaneously at a time. They felt the pulse of home sub-division and being hopeful, decided to conspicuous struggle with a common programme for the whole district. With this mission in view, all congress re-presentatives from 6 sub-divisions of the district assembled in a secret meeting on the 24th September 1942 at the residence of Manmathanath Das a renowned congressman and advocate at Chetla in Calcutta. Unanimously it was resolved that on the 29th September '42 at 2 P.M all Police Stations (whereever feasible) and government offices, of the British Raj to be attacked and occupied simultaneously. But strict principles of non-violence to be followed. For successful implementation of Thana attack programme, Bidyut Bahini an attacking squad, was formed under the guidance of Sushil Kumar Dhara at Mahisadal. Volunteers were then named as national soldiers of the newly formed Bahini and the congress office was the war camp training centre for Guerilla Regiment with, practical technique of enquiry as intelligence branch personnel and Ambulance activites. On the 28th September congress workers with the help of trained national soldiers of Bidyut Bahini and with mass co-operation destroyed telegraph posts, disconnected telephone lines, disconnected the link roads by digging deep pits in each P.S. under Tamluk Sub-division at dead of night. This was the primary stage of violent activities as in other provinces were focused in leaflets and bulletins from different sources.

On 29th September, Tamluk, Mahisadal and Sutahata P.S. and on 30th Nandigram Police station and other government offices were attacked by the non-violent mass. On this occasion, 39 became martyrs by devilish firing by police. At Tamluk the

daring venture of Matangini Hazra a lady of 73 years and two school students Purimadhab and Lakshminarayan breathed their last. Only sutahata P.S was under the possession of the processionists and the O/C with arms and records surrendered without any attempt to restrain them. Congress committee in Panskura and Moyna P.S. failed to mobilize mass to attack Police Station due to organisational difficulty during the short period of time. Police started looting, setting fire houses, arresting people in mass scale with vengeance. After a fortnight, on the 16th October, whole of Tamluk and Contai Sub-divisions by a deadly typhoon with Cyclone and terrible water-spout in the Bay of Bengal were devastated. People lost their food and shelter. All paddy field were under water. Many of their family members and domestic animals floated away with water. In the circumstances, Police raided the house at night and arrested Congress workers and national soldiers. 12 Military camps were opened for this purpose in surrounding of the sub-division. Just after flood the S.D.O. Tamluk instantly promulgated Sec. 144 in the whole Sub-division and stopped all non official relief organisations to enter into the flood-areas and confiscated all relief materials. In addition, the then D.M., M.N. Khan I.C.S. informed the Governor by a telegraphic message.

"No outsider should be allowed to do relief work in this district, this is the abode of rebel only, the loss due to typhoon is only 2% and I shall do needful"¹ Besides, during the aftermath, hundreds of soldiers white and black were brought from outside and several military camps were established. At dead of night these soldiers by small boats in batches raided in villages, burnt and looted the houses, oppressed the volunteers, workers which surpassed the bashful activities of the Nazis. The soldiers were so nervous and afraid of counter attack by the people that they came out in batches at night. On the otherhand the Japanese aggression, and broadcasting news from Berlin and Tokeyo that Subhas Chandra with his Bahini proceeded to help India to join in their struggle for independence, the British army and Police were very much terrorized. At the present moment when the cyclone swept away the food and shelter, all congress workers and leaders were seriously perturbed how to save the lives of the people. The Sub-divisional Congress committee called a meeting in the

house of Mahendranath Doloi at Dakhin-Narkelda on the 17th December, 1942. They discussed the alarming situation that not only the British administration prohibited the non-official relief organisations to enter and operate relief work about a month, all the newspapers were also gagged to publish any news of the affected people. A worker of the Marwari Relief Society came for help, but he was arrested and all relief materials in his stock were taken away. Considering all these acts of perilous inhuman government administration, it was resolved unanimously that "Tamralipta Jatiya Sarker" to be established styled as "MAHABHARATIYA JUKTARASTRA" and would act as a part of a sovereign "Indian Federal Government". At the head there would be "Sarbadhinayak" (as dictator) and he would be assisted by other ministers (then called as Sachib) in different departments as Foreign affairs, Finance, Home and War, Judicial, Health, Education, Publicity, Relief and Public relation. This was also resolved that in each P.S. Thana Jatiya Sarker would start functioning with Adhinayak as thana titular head with all departments as in centre under the Sachib with their respective portfolios. Accordingly, Satish Chandra Samanta was selecterd as Sarbadhinayak. He by a proclamation declared henceforth "Biplabi" publicity organ of the Congress Committee would be Mouth piece of Tamralipta Jatiya Sarker and would function from this day the 17th December, '42. He appointed Ajoy Kumar Mukherjee as Finance Minister, Sushil Kumar Dhara as Home and War-Minister. Names of others ministers were also declared.

He also declared the names of Adhinayak in 4 P.S. along with names of other minister. Kunja Behari Bhaktadas in Nandigram, Janardan Hazra in Sutahata, Nilmoni Hazra in Mahisadal and Gunadhar Bhounik in Tamluk Thana Jatiya Sarker, and each Jatiya Sarker would be functioning on and from 26th. January 1943. Jatiya Sarker in all P. S. at the instant help of the Centre organised to take up relief work with earnest ability forming branch of "Mahendra Relief Committee".² By their own effort and through the non-official organisation, Jatiya Sarker spent about Rs. 50,000/- upto December '43 for relief work among sufferers, irrespective of choice of people who were against Jatiya Sarker and helped police in their barbarous oppression, looting and setting fire on

houses of congress workers were benefitted. Jatiya Sarker stopped all other activities and helped the distressed people distributing paddy and rice collecting from the rich who had surplus stock. Sixty miles embankments were repaired by the effort of Jatiya Sarker to prevent tidal water during full-moon and new moon in every fortnight. During the period of food crisis, the far-sighted leaders of Jatiya Sarkar in the same proclamation declared Bidyut Bahini and Bhagini Sena (Women joined in subsequent stage) as "National Militia" and "Biplabi" would be published in target number for distribution as organ of Jatiya Sarker due to gagging of Newspapers. National Army started with — Fighting Branch, Intelligence Branch, and Ambulance. Later on Bhagini Sena acted as Sister Army to train up village women to protect themselves from repression like molestation by the enemy soldiers and local police. In this connection, this would not be out of place to mention that from Sarbadhinayak, the dictator down to every members of Jatiya Sarker, shared equal fate and suffering with the half-fed people and neighbours. All of them took one meal a day with 2 Chataks (100 grams approx.) of rice with available vegetables and at night 4 chataks of boiled green peas with molasses (total quantity 24 hours meal measuring 500 grams).

When people in general being helped with food and shelter and leader with soldiers shared equal fate, major population with their cordial sentiments stood by the newly established Tamralipta Jatiya Sarkar, The British administration with vengeance deployed on January 9th. 600 soldiers who surrounded 3 villages—Masuria, Dihi-Masuria and Chandipur in P.S. Mahisadal began to raid houses in mass scale, plundered residue foodgrains, ornaments and destroyed cooking utensils (remained after water-spout), whipped ladies, young girls, even children, particularly when they became disappointed to trace the congress workers and volunteers. At last Nalini Raha a devil police officer led the soldiers and instructed for molestation and criminal inhuman assault under confinement of their husband and sons and all other members of their family, then raped 49 women on this day, under age group from 16 to 27 (80%) and remaining 30 to 52 (20%). Among them 10 to 15% became the victims of rape by more than 2/3 soldiers for twice or thrice indiscriminately including widow,

unmarried, married, pregnant and bedridden ailing ladies. (Statement of some of them are set forth in Appendix (iv). The most horripilation incident was one Sm. Sindhubala Maity aged 21 W/O. Adharchandra Maity of Chandipur who had been raped on 27.10.42 and again on 9.1.43 embraced death, she became a patriotic martyr in the list.³

The District Magistrate and the Subdivisional officer, on this successful beast-brutal operation, in later stage released many thieves and notorious dacoits from the jail before expiry of their terms to help military and Police in looting, and arresting national soldiers of Bidyut Bahini and Bhagini Sena.

At this stage, the young soldiers fresh from school and colleges had to think the speech of Subhas Chandra in Hazra Park, "Our duty is to see that the pockets of the Britishers are touched. There are two ways to teach them lesson either by force or by doing things which touch their pockets. As the first unsuited to India constitutionally, we must have recourse to the second."⁴ The youth whose heads were already crammed with the ideas of driving the British with slogan "Quit India" immure the idea of violence committed in Midnapur in the past. Public sentiment was also alike.

WHY AND WHEN GARAMDAL WAS FORMED

In the changed situation with brutalities of the Police actions, the Sarbadhinayak in the centre and all the Adhinayaks of Thana Jatiya Sarker and their component part the Sachibs (ministers) who were staunch followers of Gandhiji felt the crux of dilemma. At last, consideration of Public interest came to prevail on the upper hand and superseded the track of hyperbola at the instance of Gandhiji's last parting instruction, "Every man and woman would be leaders according to their conscience". Sushil Kumar Dhara, the Home and War Minister, C-in-C of National Militia was fully entrusted to save entire population by maintaining Law and order, firmly decided to form "Action Squad" styled as "GARAMDAL" with three main streams. Training Centres were established for guerilla fighting, use of dagger specially for women with instruction to assemble under a fixed shelter in every village at the time of

police raid etc. and for training of Efficient Intelligence Branch and Service of Ambulance considered a mast after operation of Action Squad. In each Thana Jatiya Sarkar Home Minister as G.O.C. would be also in-charge of chief of this Garamdal.

In this extreme critical juncture, all the titular heads both in centre and in Thanas (P.S) Jatiya Sarkar decided to form "Garamdal", the Action Squad just as a means but not an end. In the past, the seasoned followers of Gandhiji experienced about violence act of assassination of Mr. Paddy, Douglas and Burge, three district magistrates of Midnapur during 1930–1933 consecutively one after another. On the other side, they actively participated in Boycott movement, violation of Salt laws, no tax campaign and the like, suffered physical torture and imprisonment under leadership of Gandhiji.

They have truly conceded that the Anarchist movement had a temporary influence in limitation among the supporters of a very few loyal personnel of a particular group whereas non-violent movement be strengthened day by day roused mass consciousness with national spirit of ethical confidence, thus gathered permanently an awakening unity of political and social revolution through sovereign contact of assemblage among all classes of people.

-
1. Nandigrane Swadhinata Sangram by B. Bhakta, P. 159
 2. Banglar Haldighat Tamluk by Gopinandan Goswami, P. 46, 47
 3. August Revolution and Two years National Govt. in Midnapur by Satish Chandra Samanta, Bhattacharya, Das and Pramanik. P. 50–52
 4. Ref. Subhas Chandra by Dasgupta P-67 in the Book. "Brothers against the Raj" by Leonard A. Gordon.

CHAPTER-IV
**FORMATION AND ACTIVITIES OF
GARAMDAL
(ACTION SQUAD)**

All opined unanimously that it was the crying need to stand by the the people and they should not be thrown helpless prey before the British hyenas. Jatiya Sarkar had no other alternative but to form Action Squad as the people became eager to retaliate against brutal oppression, looting, raping by the military and police at large. The situation became so deadly that the congress leaders of Jatiya Sarkar could not deter Garamdal formation in the newly adopted track even the futuristic reflection might be delusive and erroneous, detrimental and suicidal.

At this stage the veterans who had no experience of national parallel government, ignored or set aside to follow up successive changes, it may lead to comtemporaneous confrontation causing a wide mouthed block-hole.

Still it can be emphatically mentioned that spring and fountains of Garamdal as revealed by Gandhiji in his final verdict of appraisal was the real background of his philosophy regarding its application and execution. In anyway, his explanation relating to the deviation from non-violence is a distinguished record in national deed.

Ajoy Kumar Mukherjee, the finance minister proposed that Sushil Kumar Dhara, Home minister, C-in-C of national militia would be appointed as Chief of Garamdal in addition to his former duties. He was entrusted with entire gravity to root-out all criminal activities of informers, spies and traitors as considered deemed to be necessary. Accordingly, he would formulate planning and implementation of the policy as per guide line suggested :

Action Squad of Garamdal must be engaged to work in the areas where there overall public support would be available.

Before taking any action, each case must be enquired by G.O.C. as Garamdal chief in P.S. and I.B. (selected by the chief as reliable associates of G.O.C. of the locality) individually or by joint venture.

One special Judicial Board of 3 members to be formed to finalise the disputed cases.

Any action done with personal interest or in support of any family g. lge would be led to fatal punishment.

Judicial Department should be assisted in their work of realization of fine, in case of local demand for physical punishment of criminals and also "Desantar" (Life transportation) for the culprits for persecution upon women and children and for any social crimes detrimental to the policy of Jatiya Sarkar.

Sushil Kumar Dhara, the Chief of Garamdal by his lightning speed started recruitment of soldiers in each Thana Jatiya Sarkar from among the tested soldiers of the Bidyut Bahini and Bhagini Sena who were physically strong and stout for guerilla fight and with strong nerves to maintain strict steel secrecy.

Training included—wrestling (Jujutusu) use of dagger for self defence of women (among Bhagini Senas).

All G.O.Cs and Judicial Departments of P.S. were advised to submit list of spies, informers, engaged to help military and police in arresting national soldier, congress workers, looting, raping, theft and decoity committed by the jail released criminal within a week.

The Chief with his utmost strain and efforts completed training of specially recruited soldiers within a fortnight.

Execution of action in detail by Garamdal are recorded in P.S. wise by each thana Jatiya Sarkar.

ACTIVITIES OF GARAMDAL MAHISADAL THANA JATIYA SARKAR

The Home Minister and Chief of Garamdal S.K.Dhara examined the list of guilty persons and he purposely picked up from East, West and middle zonal areas of Mahisadal Thana Jatiya Sarkar. Then he selected three criminals for exemplary punishment, so as to create comprehensive, far reaching terror among the informers and traitors who acted against Jatiya Sarkar.

One Purimadhab Pramanik of 13 years was a student in Kalyanchawk Gourmohan Institution in P.S. Mahisadal. He sacrificed his life on 29th Sept. by police firing at Tamluk as he joined in the procession with other senior students of his school on the occasion of attacking Tamluk thana. On that day 10 others became martyrs. For this incident two of the senior teachers Bipin Behari Maity and Sripati Charan Boyal were alleged, as congress workers in that Institution and inspired the students with the sense of patriotism and national uplift. This institution was under the influence of the President S.K. Guha¹ and the members of the managing committee, who ill-behaved with Bipin Babu and ultimately he had to resign. Then the committee alleged against Sripati Babu that he took initiative to inspire the students to join the Quit India Movement in all programme led by congress committee. As a result, student volunteers organised picketing and students boycotted the class. On 29th most of the students joined the programme of thana attack at Tamluk and Mahisadal. Sripati Babu had active participation with the students in this programme as alleged by the Managing Committee, decided to dismiss him from his service (Extract of the minutes dt. 10.1.1943. (Appendix-V)

On this background, the classes were disturbed and ultimately the school was closed totally for a along period. Biraj alias Bimal Misra, a teacher of Kalyanchawk Gourmohan Institution was alleged to assist police in arresting many of the students, who joined the programme. On the report of enquiry

by the I.B. of Jatiya Sarkar it appeared to be true. Another one serious allegation was against him that he had regular contact with the police camp and he also accompanied the police at night to identify the residence of those participant students.

S. K. Dhara, as G.O.C instructed the Commandant Gopinandan Goswami and I.B. to collect the particulars regarding the time of movement of Biraj to contact police camp, and the dresses used by the Police at the time of operation at night in details.

After verification report, tested national soldiers for the purpose were selected and advised to be ready on a fixed date and time. But they were kept in the dark about the actual place and object of action to maintain strict secrecy.

One night at 11 p.m. Sushil Kumar dressed himself with a dhuti and shirt and a long over coat (as the I.B. of Police dressed himself). His accompanying national soldier was with Khaki Police constable's uniform. Both of them reached the house of Biraj near the school playground, and woke him up from his bed. The constable went close to him and spoke in Hindi, "Bara Daroga Babu, upko bulate Haye. I.B. Saheb Khel Maidanme Khara Huyia haye Hunya Dekhiye" (you are called by O/C Look I.B. Saheb waiting in the playground).

Processing and Execution of a teacher :

The teacher as a faithful assistant of the police followed them unhesitatingly taking his position for his own safety in between police and I.B. officer (as national soldiers on camouflage). As soon as he reached near playground at a little distance Biraj became a prey in Jujutsu (wrestling Trick) and fell down on the ground. At once other soldiers surrounded him and ordered him to follow on points of daggers. Being frightened, Biraj had to follow them upto Itamagra sluice gate and he was awarded capital punishment there. Then his body was dissected and thrown into the river Haldi. The then G.O.C. S.K. Dhara in the role of I.B. was confirmed about allegation against Biraj when he responded on call by the police. On this responded action of Biraj, G.O.C. was also satisfied about responsible report of his own I.B. Next morning this action of Garamdal was widely published in the locality as "Bara Babur

Dak" 2. The rumour was believed by the people that Biraj was arrested by the police and sent to the prison for his non-compliance to abide by the order of O/C of P.S. No body could guess what actually happened and police had to swallow this public rumour. S. K. Dhara the Home Minister at the centre and G.O.C. of Mahisadal with his Bahini were inspired for future planning with self-confidence of their success. The direct effect of this operation was Action Squad in each Thana Jatiya Sarkar became enthusiastic to control the activities of informer, criminal chowkidar and Dafadar³ and local spies against Jatiya Sarkar. Secondly, collection of rice and paddy from the surplus stock-owners were available to solve acute food crisis in flood affected areas.

Processing and Execution of Kamp Brothers :

Two brothers of one "Kamp" family of vill. Guria were dacoits and recently they were released from Midnapur jail before expiry of term to help police in their raid, looting and other activities. They were permanent resident of Howrah district —just opposite to other side of the Rupnarayan River of P.S. Mahisadal. One Purna Maity of Ghatual contacted with "Kamp" brothers for performing looting and dacoity on several occasions in his locality. Accordingly, one night by the guidance of Purna they committed dacoity in the house of Anadi Misra of Bar-Amritberia, a supporter of Jatiya Sarkar. After their operation Purna circulated, with his own initiative that all those dacoity were done by the Bidyut Bahini of Jatiya Sarkar. There was also a wide publicity in the neighbouring areas that at present all such activities like theft and dacoity were done by the Bidyut Bahini of Jatiya Sarkar. As a result, people of affected villages believed this rumour. But those crimes were done by the jail released notorious persons with the help of police assistance. As directed by C-in-C, I.B. enquired and after verification became sure that with the help of "Kunp" brothers committed dacoity in other house of the adjacent villages too. Action Squad of Garamdal was engaged for their immediate arrest. Accordingly within a week both the brothers were arrested by the Garamdal and kept in the national custody. Chief of Garamdal decided to make a public trial of those dacoits and Purna as wanted by the people of locality and by

the Judicial Department's recommendation-punishment should be physically executed so as to mark them as social criminals for the rest of the life.

A short notice was issued intimating all suffered villagers that trial court would be held, at anytime before afternoon in the junction of three affected villages, Tikarampur, Totaberia and Tarageria. The criminal dacoits were examined in Trial Court and asked to confess the names of their accomplices. They out right denied all allegations against dacoity. The judge ordered the expert, trained soldier of the squad to break the right hand and left leg from the elbow and knee-joint respectively. Still then another brother denied committance of dacoity. Similarly, left hand and right leg of other brother were dislocated. Purna, the spy and partner of sharing ornaments, money and valuable commodities, on this perceptible redundant consequence got nervous. He and his mother with tearful eyes fell down under the feet of the judge and promised to return all valuables to the respective owners. He also admitted before the public present in the trial court (in open field) that the rumour circulated by them blaming Jatiya Sarkar and Bidyut Bahini for all dacoities so far committed, were absolutely false. He further announced names of their associates in the party. He and his mother begged mercy of the court and was ready to expiate for his crime. On the appeal of the mother and son, villagers attended the trial court, expressed their satisfaction and recommended some relief in punishment. Judge passed order to cut off Purna's thumb of his right hand.⁴

The nett result achieved, the public who suffered by the dacoity committed by the "Kump brothers" demanded their trial in open court in their presence, secondly, award of exemplary physical punishment. put their faith on administration. One of the "Kump Brother" died after two months and another brother had to carry the symbolic sign of national curse as a traitor for the rest of his life. This required special mentioning that none venture to inform the police camp at Babattar hat, only at a distance of not more than one mile, during the trial court was functioning.

Processing and Execution of Bhabatosh Das :

Next action executed upon two Dafadars one of them was Bhabatosh Das of Sundra and another was Sk. Ramjan of

Harikhali. Both were alleged for helping police as informers, to raid in the houses specially where there were unmarried girls and ladies in the supporters' family of Jatiya Sarker and to arrest national soldiers. On verification by the I.B. this was corroborated that 20 women were raped and 12 national soldiers were arrested by their information and active help.

At his initiative, the main war camp of Bidyut Bahini and Bhagini Sena at Sundra was destroyed by fire by the military. Both of them were so important agents to the police that they attended police camp at Mahisadal escorted by police every day. It was difficult to avail suitable opportunity for taking action against him. After successive and continuous watch for a week by the I. B. of Garamdal, informed that Bhabatosh was habituated to perform nature's call on the bank of his pond situated on the back of his house in a thick plantain garden after his return home from the Police station of Mahisadal. Attempts for consecutive three days failed as he performed nature's call before dusk. At last, on the fourth day action squad with national soldiers awaited in three batches separately keeping marginal distance of one half furlong. As soon as Bhabatosh came outside by back door on nature's call he was pushed by the chief of Garamdal (applying jujutsu trick). Bhabatosh fell down on the ground. Three heavy weight well trained soldiers of 1st batch sat on his chest, captured him and finished him there on the spot. Then the dead body was put inside a sack full of brans of paddy to prevent oozing blood outside. In the last batch two Bhagini Sena were awaiting at a little distance to perform their duty. They played the roles of member of their family coming from Calcutta for safest shelter at village home, as the Japanese bombard there.⁵ One Bhagini Sena played role as a newly married lady and the other as one aged member of the same family. The second batch of strong healthy soldiers of the Bahini carried the sack of the dead body and others were carrying useful cooking utensils in small packets to avoid doubt of the passers by on the way.

It was then 7/8 pm. They were proceeding to the ferry ghat of Terapekhia for crossing the river Haldi to reach Nandigram. Some of the passersby on their way enquired wherefrom they were coming and what was their destination. They replied that they were coming from Calcutta as there were severe bombing

by the Japanese. So they were going back home for shelter. There was no scope to disbelieve them as they were with ladies and carrying household cooking materials with them. Besides, the newly married lady covered her face with the edge of her sari as usually done and the other was with a lantern in her hand as they walked in the dark. They reached at the down belt of the river Haldi, and dissected the dead body then thrown in the ebb-tide. The Bhagini sena in the role of a married lady played successfully and assisted with strong nerves in this operation under the direct supervision and leadership of the chief.

Processing and Execution Sk. Ramjan :

Allegation against Sk. Ramjan, Dafadar was more serious in his vindictive action against Jatiya Sarkar.⁶ He directly helped the police for abduction and raping of women. Besides, his active persuasion and information, the first Adhinayak of Mahisadal Jatiya Sarkar — Nilmony Hazra had been arrested recently by the police. Ramjan lived with his family in Harikhali Bazar. As per report from I.B., Ramjan was habituated to drink country liquor (Tari) with his friend Ananta of Keshabpur Jalpai. Sometimes the Majlis (dinner) held in Ananta's house at night. By this S. K. Dhara, the Chief advised Gopinandan Goswami G.O.C. to set up the net-work in which Ananta surrendered to the Action Squad and became the important instrument in this operation. One evening, Ananta invited Ramjan to attend Majlis with Khanapina (Curry and other items) at his house. The house was selected suitable for some specific facilities for action. This was a double storied kachha house minus the permanent stair-case, where upper roof was used by a movable ladder (Usually such space is generally utilised for storing useful house-hold valuable goods).

On the day of operation some experienced national soldiers were hiding themselves inside the upper roof and waited for the opportune moment. Ramjan came to Ananta's house at 8 p.m. "Majlis" for Khanapina (entertainment) was arranged in the upper roof and the guest and host got on there by movable bamboo ladder. When they were enjoying in happy mood, the ladder was removed. Ramjan became besotted with over-dose of country made drink. Suddenly, national soldiers came out from

covered area jumped upon Ramjan and smoothly finished the operation. The deadbody was carried to the river Haldi-just at one mile from Ananta's residence and thrown after proper execution. Next morning, Ananta circulated in the locality that Ramjan was arrested by Bidyut Bahini on his way back home. Both the administration and his wife believed that Ramjan was alive and would come back soon.

Processing and execution of Kachi and Moti :

There was a "Jolla Muslim Pally" within 2/3 miles from Babattarhat special Police Camp. Two notorious dacoits of this Muslim pally named Kachi and Moti were released from Midnapur Jail before expiry of their conviction period to help special police camp for active participation with police and military at the time of raid. Very soon they became faithful informers and expert associates for looting, snatching relief materials from the village people on their way home with The "Doles". Surrounding villager were harassed and tortured by their criminal activities in house to house searching by the police to arrest congress worker and national soldiers. By their such activities at night male members did not stay at home. Taking this opportunity they committed dacoity and thus police were getting with chance to oppress the ladies by molestation and raping. Judicial department received a large number of allegations against them. But as they were privileged persons under the shelter and protection by the Police Camp, no action could be possible by the said department. Hence for proper drastic action such cases were referred to the Garamdal Chief.

On receiving alleged applications from the Judiciary of Thana Jatiya Sarkar, Sushil Kumar, the home minister and Chief of Garamdal took up the matter with personal initiative. I.B. was advised to watch the movement of Kachi and Moti, how and when they attended police camp. Complete report as to how many police or the full batch came to them for police raid, how they came in contact with them, at their own initiative or whether police came with their usual dress with arms, or in plain dress, without any arms, any other important information to be furnished by the I.B. and G.O.C. By this time for pressure of work the home minister was relieved of his responsibility as G.O.C. of Mahisadal thana Jatiya Sarkar and Gopinandan Goswami was nominated as G.O.C. in his place.

Within the target period of time I.B. and G.O.C put up reports to the Chief. (Prabaha. P-166)

The chief of action squad was dressed in Khaki shirt and short with a long bamboo stick in his hand so as to look like an expert constable of the Police camp. His bodyguard Nardu (Ajit Singh) played the role of I.B. Officer of Police Camp dressed with a dhuti and a long Kamij (long shirt used by the Punjabi People) over the Kamij he put on a long coat glossy black in colour as used by the I.B. Officer of Police in the operation at night. It was then 10 p.m. at night. When, the Chief of Garamdal in dress of the Constable reached Muslim pally and found Kachi sitting in his outer varandah asked, "Are Kachi Kanha hay?" Kachi stood up and saluted him, offered him a Biri, (where is Kachi ?) (smoking stick) for his dignity lighted the match also. The constable (chief) never smoked in life, but on this occasion began to smoke turning his face backside for throwing away smokes in the air, then said, "Daroga Babu Kachi our Moti dono ke camp me bolate hay". (The O/C Called on both) The I.B. Officer (Nardu) ordered from behind (Hurry up) "Jaldi karo,—kam bahat jaruri hay. (this is most urgent), der mat karro" (Don't be late) Constable noticed that kachi was most reluctant to comply order and accompany them. Besides, Kachi with folded hands said, "Aj mere tabiat achha nai hay, Maye (To day I am not feeling well—I will meet tomorrow) Kal jaunga" At this, the I.B. Officer (Nardu) was enraged and threatened him and abused with slang language. He ordered the constable "Choubeji isko arrest kijiye" (Arrest him) Still then Kachi remained firm and denied to accompany them. At this, constable began to beat him and signalled calling others by whistling. National Soldiers of Action Squad reached there immediately. Nardu and Satish with the help of Dhiren dragged Kachi, on the back side of his house. Nardu at once pierced through his chest a sharp long dagger. On hearing his groaning sound Moti came out of his house and was so much startled and afraid in this horrible situation that he was struck dumb. I.B. ordered the Bahini for leading Moti quickly to follow them. Moti without any protest obediently followed like a pet dog. After a while, at a safe distance Moti was punished and sent to "Desantar" till independence. (The dead body was carried and thrown in the river Haldi). Ajoy Kumar Mukherjee, the Finance minister was

informed by special messenger about this adventurous operation in details.. to publish in "Biplabi" on the next day to create confusion both the British administration and the public.

DAKATE-DAKATE KHUNOKHUNI (Published in BIPLABI No. 34)

Both Kachi and Sk. Moti of Puyadah were notorious dacoits. They were intimate to Daroga Babu of Babattarhat Special Police camp as faithful informer of police in looting, dacoity and snatching of relief Doles the Biplabi (no. 34) dated 21.3.43 circulated : "At about 8/9 p.m. at night some police force with gun and other arms reached Moti's house and ordered him to come to police camp. His partner Kachi was also present there and he disobeyed the order. Police arrested him and took him to camp. At this, there was a big tussle between the police and local supporters of Kachi and Moti in the Muslim pally. Police first began to lathi-charge and atlast fired on them. Kachi died by firing. In his body signs of bullet were found and his dead body was left in the open field. He was also attacked with dagger, blood was found oozing from his breast still now. But Sk. Moti was missing, from that moment. His where abouts is not known. In the locality, there was a rumour that Kachi was being killed by Moti due to disagreement between the parties and the supporters regarding division of shares of looting materials and money and because Moti murdered Kachi he left the village, remained absconding. So police administration was much unnerved. They started searching of the dead body and the missing decoit, Moti. But in vain."

As per news in Biplabi O/C. of Police camp began enquiry who were the police went to the "Jola Muslim Pally" and under whose order. Among the staff none could trace exactly what happened. The episode of this miracle remained unknown till the date of independence.

Total 26 Criminals were punished "Desantar" for their anti national government activities against Tamralipta Jatiya Sarkar. List of other missing. 19 informers, spies who tried to adduce false evidence as state - witness against national soldiers under murder charges mentioned in the F.I.R. No. detailed information found to be recorded anywhere.

1. Bhusan Bera — Uttar Kashimnagar.
2. Bhagirath Das Adhikary — do
3. Hossain Mir — Bhandar Jalpai
4. Khurshed Mir — do
5. Satish Maity — Mandergachia.
6. Manindra Maity — Tarageria.
7. Achyutananda Misra — Bar Amritberia.
8. Hrishikesh Bhowmik — (Bhola) Padumbasan.
9. Sashi Maity — Srikrishnapur.
10. Bhutunath Bar — (Chowkidar) — Babalpur.
11. Ratneswar Sahoo (President of Union Board) Pandabbasan.
12. Shashi Maity — (Chowkidar) — Kolsar.
13. Khagen Maity — Basudebpur.
14. Tarini charan Maity — Basudebpur.
15. Gobinda Das — Amritberia.
16. Tarani Mandal — Rajarampur.
17. Manindra Maity — Ghatual.
18. Nilkanta Maji (Union Board member) Union No. 11.
19. Hemanta Bag (a notorious dacoit) — Kalihanda.⁷

Mahisadal Thana Jatiya Sarkar arrested some persons who made money by receiving the sanctioned fund by the British Government for relief, repair of embankment and roads and were detained in national custody. The judicial department with the help of Action Squad, realised fine amounting to Rs. 3,000/- to Rs. 5,000/- from the following persons :-

1. Umacharan Pattanayak—Kabiraj (Local doctor)
2. Sripati Charan Adak—President of Union Board.
3. Jnanendranath Bhowmik — Rajnagar Chowk-Simulia.
4. Indu Pramanik — Basulia.
5. Nagendranath Samanta — (Businessman) Basulia.(2)⁷

List of Garamdal Sainiks
Of
MAHISADAL THANA JATIYA SARKAR.

1. Sri Sushil Kumar Dhara, Commender-in-Chief,
 Home Minister, Chief of Garamdal, Vill.— Tikarampur.

- | | | |
|----------|--|--------------------------------|
| 2. " | Gopinandan Goswami. G.O.C. & Commendant. | |
| | | Vill.— Gopalpur. |
| 3. " | Dhirendranath Ghorai | Khanchi. |
| 4. " | Satish Dutta | — do — |
| 5. " | Sardanan | — do — |
| 6. " | Prahallad Patra | — do — |
| 7. " | Nani Gopal Bag | Panisithi |
| 8. " | Sarat Chandra Jana | Fat-Tikri |
| 9. " | Sudhir Chandra Matya | Bagda. |
| 10. " | Khudiram Ray | Ghatual. |
| 11. " | Gangadhar Guchhait | Kalikapur. |
| 12. " | Gunadhar Doloi | Tikarampur. |
| 13. " | Ajit Kumar Sinha | Nama-Lakhya. |
| 14. Mrs. | Joytsna Das | Durgapur (P.S.— Nandigram.) |
| 15. Smt. | Usha Choudhuri | Mahisadal. |
| 16. " | Kumudini Dakua | — do — |

Associated Sainiks of Action Squad.

- | | | |
|-------|--------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. " | Harendra Nath Dinda. | Vill.— Purba Gumai. |
| 2. " | Banamali Maity. | Nai-Gopalpur. |
| 3. " | Khagendra Nath Maity. | Mahammadpur. |
| 4. " | Jatindranath Kar. | Borgada. |
| 5. " | Bankim Behari Maity. | Mahammadpur. |
| 6. " | Gangadhar Maity. | Chowk-Jiyadighi. |
| 7. " | Satish Chandra Bera. | Chowk-Simulia. |
| 8. " | Prafulla Kumar Kuila | Madhya Hingli. |
| 9. " | Ananta Kumar Das. | Terpara-Jalpai. |
| 10. " | Anil Kumar Samanta. | Dhanyaghara. |
| 11. " | Prabodh Kumar Samanta | — do — |
| 12. " | Kumud Bandhab Jana. | Syamsundarpur |
| 13. " | Kanailal Pattanayak | Kanchanpur. |
| 14. " | Jagadish Chandra Samanta | Thakurchowk. |
| 15. " | Radhagobinda Pattanayak | Maguri. |
| 16. " | Joytish Chandra Samanta | Gopalpur. |
| 17. " | Santosh Kumar Bag | Gopalpur. |
| 18. " | Atul Acharya | Bagmari. |
| 19. " | Radhakrishna Dinda | Saoraberia-Jalpai. |

| | |
|---------------------------|----------------------|
| 20. „ Biraj Mohan Samanta | Kanchanpur. |
| 21. „ Balai Maity | Chowk-Jiyan. |
| 22. „ Kartik Maity | Chowk-Jiyan. |
| 23. „ Mati Maity | Borgoda. |
| 24. „ Kishori Maity . | Khanci-Narkelda. |
| 25. „ Tarani Jana | Tajpur. ⁷ |

[The above list is being prepared from the Record of Tamralipta Itihas Committee.]

List of workers with allotment of work of responsibility as supplied by Gopinandan Goswami, G.O.C. of Mahisadal Thana Jatiya Sarkar : Classified for final operation was as under :-
Gopinandan Goswami was specific special duty as jailor.

- a) Guards for signaling in front and on back side.
- b) Expert as route guide
- c) I.B. of particular execution area for important news.
- d) Stout soldiers for carrying dead bodies.
- e) To maintain steel secrecy one batch of workers remained in dark about work of other entrusted batch of workers.

ACTIVITIES OF GARAMDAL SUTAHATA THANA JATIYA SARKAR

Executed punishment by Action Squad of Mahisadal, Garamdal created a splendid agitation in areas of other Jatiya Sarkar. People in general were influenced to a great extent by their efforts and co-operation inspite of oppression. Specially, Home and War, Relief and public relation, and Judicial Departments of each Thana Jatiya Sarkar attracted public sympathy with firm reliance as to steps taken after deadly havoc by natural calamities and their sufferings for food and shelter. At the same time, Tamralipta Jatiya Sarkar had to shoulder much more pressure of duties and responsibilities to render service to the people. By this time, more than Rs. 80, 000/- for relief work, Rs. 60,000/- to the oppressed families by the Military and Police raid, to repair riverside 1000 k.m. embankments (with labour help from public) Rs. 20,000/- were spent. This was possible due to undaunted and accurate administrative policy adopted as per planning of Finance Minister and the direct implementation by the Bidyut Bahini. During the ensuing winter, provision for distribution of clothes and blankets for the old and children were a mast necessity. In addition for the centre and other thana Jatiya Sarkars' recurring monthly expenditure of Rs. 40,000/- was estimated as minimum requirement. Considering these view points, Ajoy Kumar, the Sarbadhinayak as well as Finance minister asked to think seriously to create fund through the earnest urge by the Judiciary to appeal to the owners of surplus stock of rice and paddy and also to zaminders for monthly contribution by the respective Thana Jatiya Sarkar. In case of knaves who made money out of sanctioned amount by British Government for relief, loan, and maintainance of roads, embankment etc. and of same nature of development purpose, deceiving people should be punished by heavy amount of fine. In case of Jotedars and well to do and rich men who cheated the poor depriving them their last holding of land in lieu of small quanti of paddy or grab land utilising their labour on a minimum subsistence

POLICE STATION SUTAHATA
DISTRICT MIDNAPUR

SCALE-1"=14 MILES

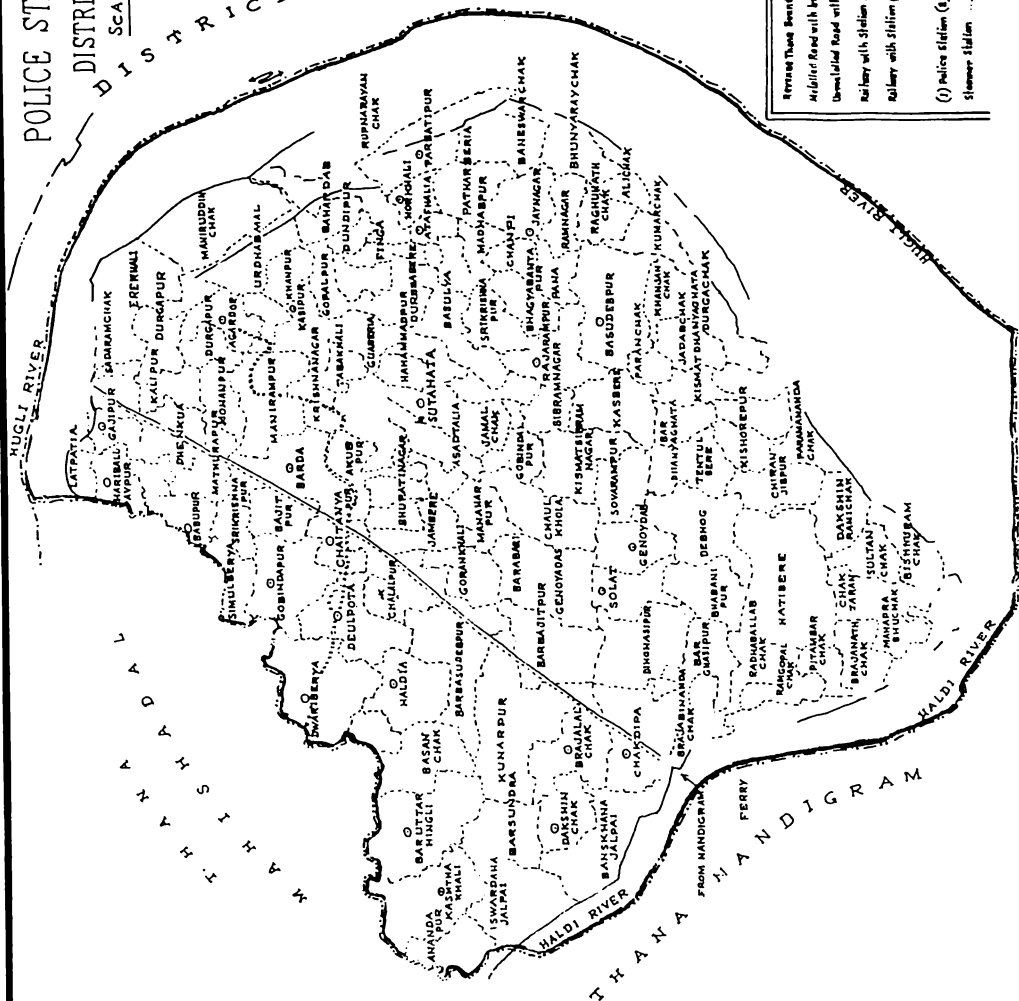


24 PARGANA S

DISTRICT

REFERENCE

- Reverse Thane Boundary
 --- Adjoining Road with bridge Mills alone & culvert
 --- Unmetalled Road with bridge Mills alone & Culvert
 --- Railway with station (single line)
 --- Railway with station (double line)
 (1) Police Station (2) of or Sub Div. (3) Quarter / (4) P. O.
 --- Steamers station



only, might be levied fine amounting to Rs. 10,000/- to Rs. 50,000/-. For this purpose if needed, help of Action Squad might be sought for the purpose.

British administration posted military at Durgachak and began looting, raping and misappropriation of relief fund and began torturing in P.S. Sutahata with retaliatory vengeance as this police station was captured with all arms and records, on 29th September, 1942.

To Save the people in this worsely affected coastal area and to maintain law and order Sarbadhinayak advised Garamdal chief to take immediate steps.

Accordingly, Sushil kumar Dhara the Minister in charge of Home and war and C-in-C. of Bidyut Bahini and also chief of Garamdal issued instructions to all Thana Jatiya Sarkars to enlist names of informers and persons engaged against the National Government activities, with a view to stop provocations to adduce false evidences before the Court in cases of missing culprits of Mahisadal P.S. from the adjoining border villages.

Processing and Execution of Ajimuddin

On report from judicial department the Chief took up the case of Ajimuddin, the resident of Ramchandrapur, a notorious dacoit helped military and local police in looting and raping, there was also allegation that he himself raped some women.

Always Ajimuddin was escorted by three body guards, at the same time they were his partners too. Bhaskar Paul (Bhaku) the trained soldier, Bidhubhusan Kuity G.O.C. and the I.B. of Jatiya Sarkar jointly verified all allegations against Ajimuddin and his party and reported to the Chief S.K. Dhara about their criminal activities. On receiving report, the Chief recommended for his "Desantar till independence" and ordered for immediate action. But it was very difficult to avail chance for action as he moved always accompanied by three of his partner body guards.

He used to set up his programme in consultation with the police and military to help in looting and raid at night and attended police on fixed relief distribution days, at day time taking opportunity of absence of male members. To follow up his day to day movement with Police one Pakhi Maity and two

other faithful national soldiers were posted in Pakhi's house at Ramchandrapur. They became unsuccessful and the matter was delayed for a week. At last one Ramapati Bayal (now alive) National Soldiers of Action Squad on the pretext as a stark mad, and both deaf and dumb was posted in Ajimuddin's house for 24 hours as watch dog. He remained lying in the outer varandah without any food and drink. Ajimuddin tried to drive him away and began to beat by stick. But Ramapati silently digested with tear without any word or sound lest his pretension as deaf and dumb be disclosed. He passed two days being tortured and remained without food.

After two days, Ajimuddin considered him as really mad and allowed him shelter. He also began to give him food on the third day. In such condition Ramapati had to pass days to fulfil his mission.

On the third night Ramapati heard Ajimuddin and his body guards-cum-partners to consult that they would attend a looting programme at Chakdwipa and Balurghat Relief Centres in Union No. 6 next morning. He also informed his body-guards that Police would raid both the villages simultaneously when the villagers would go out to collect distribution of relief doles, at that time they with assistance of police would be engaged in looting and arresting congress workers. They must join this programme in time. Ramapati carefully passed over the message to the G.O.C. Bidhu Bhusan Kuity in time, and suggested for sufficient number of activists accordingly be arranged for quick action against 4 culprits (Ajimuddin and three body-guards) at a time on their return journey at a suitable place. But Ramapati waited in Ajimuddin's house for that night so that they should have no chance to suspect him nor any way execution of action be disturbed.

The Action Squad team prepared with two expert National soldiers Lakshmipada Das, Rashbehari Jana (Bara) and Jadupati, the commandant and 4 others under the leadership of Bidhubhusan Kuity, G.O.C. The place of direct action was fixed near sluice gate at Satgachia and the time fixed after 12 p.m., on their way back towards Ramchandrapur after looting. The place was selected for a batch of squad had as hiding place under the calvert sluice gate. Others dividing in four batches remained alert and ever ready for action at a little distance surrounding all sides of the calvert.

With the planning net work they awaited for action. As soon as Ajimuddin with his three body guards stepped on the sluice gate, G.O.C. and his commandant came out and pushed them and Ajimuddin fell down on the ground. Jadupati and Bidhubhusan jumped upon his body, and another stout national soldier instantly finished him by a sharp dagger. Other three body guards became stunt for the moment and failed to decide what to do. After a few moments two of them rushed upon the National Soldiers and attacked G.O.C. Bidhu and commandant Jadupati with big sharp daggers and a wooden stick. Bidhu forcibly snatched the stick and hit a thunder stroke on the hand of other guard with dagger. The dagger spattered at a distance. By this opportune moment they were cordoned around by the other National Soldiers of the squad. Rashbehari and Lakshmipada two experts finished two guards. Bhaku Kar witnessed the scenario as a statue. Ajimuddin's testicals were dissected as his punishment for raping Kamalabati of Deulpota. Bhaku Kar observed the fate of Ajimuddin and his two body guards whose dead bodies were lying on the public street in broad day light. He begged for his life on the grounds that he was forced to join the party for fear of oppression of his family particularly on his wife and other women. He promised not to do any act of crime in future nor he would say anything before the Police. Bhaku Kar was allowed to go back to his family. He was cautioned if he took any action against Jatiya Sarkar his fate would be same.⁸

Bhaku Kar, went to the Police Camp after 2, 3 days and described about the occurrence and he was pressed for to become a state witness to adduce evidence. At the time of hearing in the Court Bhaku on cross examination by the patron⁶ advocate of Jatiya Sarkar spoke irrelevantly and his statement was considered false and the accused arrested in this murder case were released for want of evidence, as no other evidence appeared before the trial court.

In this operation, the notable feature was the role of Ramapati as a mad-cap who suffered torture by beating and stay at Ajimuddin's house without food for 3 days, was an unique example of ideal spirit of patriotism. The courage of, planning and implementation into action with perfection at day time inspired the whole organisation of Jatiya Sarkar as

magic spell. No body ventured to disobey the notice and judgement both in criminal and Civil jurisdiction side of National Govt., dacoits and informers restrained themselves from their habits of sharing looted articles, and other activities against Jatiya Sarkar.

REALISATION OF FINE FROM AN ELITE EDUCATED TRAITOR.

The Chief of Garamdal started to solve the financial need as per guidance of Finance Minister of Tamralipta Jatiya Sarkar.

The whole process of planning and administrative skill with dexterity was dramatic as well as thrilling as to the role played by the Bahini specially by Bhagini Sena trained as Jailor, P.A. to Judge.

Processing and Execution of Tripathi Brothers

Shymacharan Tripathi was a rich man of Debhog in P.S. Sutahata. He was one of the advisor on the S.D.O's Relief Committee and a patron of the British. Allegation against him was that in acute distressed condition during flood he advised S.D.O. for delaying distribution of relief. Besides, he also prepared list of recipients recommending only in favour of British agents and supporters depriving actual needy persons specially distressed families of Congress Workers, Taking advantages of famine he sold per maud (40 kg.) of paddy @ Rs. 45/- or in lieu one Bigha 0.33 acre of paddy-land. In this way he became owner of vast landed property.⁹ First he was served with a notice by the Sutahata Thana Jatiya Sarkar to donate Rs. 200/- for relief fund. He did not respond. After a week second notice was issued demanding Rs. 5000/- for disobeying order of Jatiya Sarkar. This time, not only he remained silent, in addition, expressed publicly some most objectionable comical remarks as "Goondaism" by the Jatiya Sarkar. At this, the director executor, Chief of Garamdal and also Home Minister issued the final notice demanding payment of fine Rs. 40,000/- within a Week. As no response received, within scheduled date, Home minister accepted this challenge as a prestige issue. of the National Government. He was prepared to cross over any length of obstruction to realize this fine. With steel firm determination, S.K. Dhara, the Chief of Action Squad

advised the G.O.C. and I.B. of Sutahata to watch with serious keen interest about, daily movement of Amalesh Tripathi, the youngest son of Shyamacharan. Amalesh had the proud privilege to occupy a special social position for his outstanding academic career. He was placed in the 1st division with letter marks in all subjects in the Matriculation Examination. He became a renowned historian in his after life.

Let us now peep into the green room arrangement of I.B. and G.O.C of Sutahata Thana Jatiya Sarkar. It was reported by them that Amalesh was habituated to enjoy evening walk along the kachha district board road just two furlongs away from his village residence at Debhog. Usually, Radharaman Misra, the teacher of Shyamacharan Bidhyapith (then this was a Middle English School) at Debhog accompanied him, sometimes, other two or three gomostas (employee of Zamindar) also became his companions. In their joint report both I.B. and G.O.C. suggested the chief to form the party for action with sufficient member of national soldiers to avail suitable opportunity within a week. At last after intensive persuasion the I.B confirmed a certain fixed date when Amalesh would be available accompanied by two new companions. Accordingly, all necessary arrangements should be kept ready and he might be available for the execution of the plan on the fixed date. The Bahini was formed with 5 specially trained soldiers for the purpose Amiya, Indra, Ashu, Bimal and Nani (all pseudonym) under the leadership of C-in-C of Bidyut Bahini and Bhagini Sena and his assistant was Bidhu Bhusan kuity, the G.O.C. of Sutahata Thana Jatiya Sarkar.

Amalesh with Radharaman Misra, the teacher and Sachin Goswami, the Gomostha of his estate were enjoying evening walk on road in a happy mood. It was then just after dusk. S.K. Dhara, the Chief with G.O.C. and Indra followed them at a little distance behind as ordinary village wayfarer. In a suitable corner place near paddy field three of them at a time from behind applied special trick (jijutsu-wrestling) and every one fell down on the ground. Other Sainiks of Bahini reached in the moment and cordoned all of them in a circle. At once their eyes were covered with thick cotton pad and were forced to follow the Bahini along with narrow boundary strip of paddy field in the darkness. The captives also obediently followed them. After

a mile distance, two of his companions were released with caution not to inform anyone about this incident. In a lone place Amalesh was led to walk sometimes to and fro and then circle-wise with covered eyes just to mislead him about the distance and also time spent for his shifting after his arrest. He was then put up in the house of Satish Chandra Guchhait in village Chakdwipa three to four miles away from his place of arrest. He was kept interned there for the night. To put up the captive in such a near village was decided by the war minister and C-in-C with the intention to create confusion of Police and also to watch spontaneous reaction of administrative top level after arresting such a rich educated son of a Zaminder as well as patron of S.D.O. Tamluk. The other most important factor behind, to decide about the final decision as to nature of punishment to be awarded other than realization of fine only, if incase any motivated revengeful steps be taken by his father or by administration. In such circumstances, trial court might change the nature of punishment as the situation might demand considering all those probabilities, Amalesh was presented before the trial court on that night. After hearing the case, order was passed to shift him on the next night and the case adjourned for a week. Then the captive was shifted on the following night in a safe custody in P.S. Mahisadal. During shifting, his eyes were also covered and he had to complete the journey some part on foot and some parts by boat. This method was applied to bewilder the captive as if he was then crossing the river. Here in the national custody special trained soldiers were posted to watch his mental condition from outside. Under their strict supervision he was left alone for hours together. During this period two ladies Usha Choudhury (Buri) and Jyotsna Das (Mantu) met with him occasionally and discussed with him either in English or in Hindi about present war situation and current political situation. Both were dressed with Shalwar and Kamij as if they were sophisticated Punjabi ladies. Both of them never spoke in Bengali in his presence. Guards on duty used long kamij covered upto the knees to give him impression that they were also from Punjab. As a captive prisoner from a rich elite family everyday he was supplied with costly items of palatable dishes in breakfast, launch and dinner. On the third day, Usha, the jailor informed Amalesh as per

order of the judge, he should write a letter with his own handwriting addressed to his father regarding his arrest by the Bidyut Bahini and Bhagini Sena of Tamralipta Jatiya Sarkar under alleged charge against him that his father disobeyed several times notices of Judiciary and failed to comply payment of fine Rs. 40,000/- now must be paid in full within three days at the place and time mentioned in the letter. Amalesh followed the instruction of the judge and wrote a letter to his father accordingly. Shyamacharan still remained silent after receiving his letter. On expiry of the date, the captive was again informed by the P.A. Ms. Mantu "Bara Sahib" (as the judge was termed) was pleased to advise the prisoner to write a letter for the second time to his father mentioning therein that he was hereby directed for immediate payment of full amount and his non-compliance would be seriously dealt with. Amalesh appealed before the P.A. to request Bara Sahib to allow him to insert the following lines in his letter in addition as "You are the owner of vast property and you have large amount of bank balance. I am your poor unfortunate son like to meet you once before closing my eyes at Barabari Primary School at 3 a.m. last part of night and the trial court is kind enough to grant me this opportunity". On receipt of that letter there was still no response from his father. Amalesh, became very much disheartened and sought for advice of G.O.C and P.A what he should do and what should be his fate. Next day P.A advised Amalesh to submit an application in writing to Barasaheb that if he be released and allowed to go home, he promised to pay the fine on behalf of his father from his own fund Rs. 20,000/-. Amalesh filed his application according to instruction. The chief was determined to realize the fine by any means. He consulted with some other soldiers of Bahini and G.O.C. Gopinandan and prepared to shoulder the risk if Amalesh availed police help after his release. As a result, military action might be spread over vast areas to trace out the secret shelters of custody (jail) and many other complex problems might arise then. The chief apprehending the danger, cancelled the first plan and proposed to arrest his elder brother as security of Amalesh and then Amalesh might be permitted to go home. He also asserted implementation of the proposed plan within two days. As per instruction, G.O.C. formed his Bahini consisting of five

intelligent members of the squad I.B., Sudhir Bhowmik, Ramchandra Samanta, Jadupati Maity and Manmath Sanki to follow up the scheme of arresting Hrishikesh, elder brother of Amalesh.

Hrishikesh Tripathi, was an advocate of Tamluk court. By this time Amalesh passed 9 days as prisoner and remained in jail custody of Jatiya Sarkar.

On the 10th day after his arrest, his elder brother Hrishikesh was arrested from his residential campus. Being afraid on threatening by the Bahini he obeyed the order and followed them quietly without any obstruction. His eyes were covered as usual process and asked to follow by the narrow strip of paddy field holding hand of a soldier. On the way, he became unbalanced in stepping and got injury in knee joints. So, for the night he was put in the house of Bhagabati the widow of Ramkrishna Adhikary in the neighbouring village. For relief of his pain medicine was given and one attendant was engaged for his nursing. Having his elder brother as security, Amalesh was released in the last part of that very night. Under the strict supervision of soldier Amalesh was sent back near his residence and he was informed as parting news that his elder brother was now under the safe custody of Action Squad as captive. On his return home Amalesh found his father lying bed-ridden in despair about the fate of his two sons. It was learnt that Amalesh reported his father about his experience and impression during the days in the prison. He highly spoke of two elite Punjabi ladies as his companions, well organised trained and disciplined. He also informed that he was supplied with palatable costly dishes everyday. He narrated about gentle behaviour of judge and his lady P.A. at trial court, to enjoy his leisure time.

After arrest before shifting to the area of Mahisadal Thana Jatiya Sarkar custody Hrishikesh was presented to the trial court. The Judge whose face was full of beard and long moustache as if he represented as a Jawan from Peswar. Who was he? He was the war and Home Minister Sushil kumar Dhara, P.A. to Barababu Miss Sing (same lady represented as Mantu by Jyotsna Das) began to examine the captive, an advocate of Tamluk Court. She asked him, "Why your father dishonoured the order and why he did not comply to pay the fine on the fixed date inspite of several notices issued on him.

She was introduced by the jailor that Miss Sing was a scholar of Lahore University, now deputed here to help Jatiya Sarkar in Midnapur. Hrishikesh was so unnerved without uttering a word Hrishikesh, a tall, stout handsome prisoner at once fully bent down on his injured knees and submitted with tearful eyes" and said, "Madam you are my mother and I am your son, please reduce the amount of fine—I beg your pardon, kindly do not make me pauper". The lady, P. A. to judge with her thunderous voice. "No, that is not possible. You must pay full amount Rs. 40,000/-". "Still then the captive was in kneel-down position holding her feet. As instructed before, P. A. turned her face and said", "Alright, you may represent your appeal before Barasaheb".

The judge adjourned the case and ordered the guard to take back the captive to custody fixing date of shifting on the next night. Hrishikesh also availed same hospitalities as enjoyed by Amalesh. Amalesh paid from his own purse Rs. 20,000/- on the fixed date at Gangeswar Jew Mandir near Debhog.

On the third night again Hrishikesh was presented before the judge. Judge passed order. "The captive should write a letter to his father under his signature to pay the fine of Rs. 20,000/- (as reduced to half of the amount considering his appeal) to the messenger carrying his letter, mentioning therein caution, "if any action taken against the National Government's verdict he must have to experience its fatal consequence."

It may be mentioned here that the transaction of Rs. 20,000/- was completed by Amalesh according to his promise two days before the date of payment mentioned in the letter written by Hrishikesh; just to avoid risk of any conspiracy if done between the Police and the father of Amalesh. The plan was completely successful and the full amount was realized on an earlier date by negotiation with Amalesh, (published in Tamralipta on 23rd December, 1997 by Gopinandan Goswami, G.O.C., Mahisadal).

Nation would remember and appreciate the eulogized sagacity of well thought out plan which involved alarming danger and risk as shouldered by Sushil Kumar, Chief of Action Squad and C-in-C of Bidyut Bahini and Bhagini Sena, and also his pin-pointed right action in the right moment at the most crucial moment.

On the other hand it was equally praise worthy that both the Tripathi brothers at last were subdued to the Tamralipta Jatiya Sarkar paying an amount of Rs. 20,000/- as fine.

In this connection, the narration of some more facts as published in the "Tamralipta" a local daily Tamruk on 23rd December, 1997 by Gopinandan Goswami, the then G.O.C. of Mahisadal Jatiya Sarkar unveiled another thrilling courageous attempt involving life and death risk taken by both the Thana Jatiya Sarkar Mahisadal and Sutahata with regard to shifting Hrishikesh Triparti upto his residence, after his release.

"After completion of transaction of full payment of Rs. 20,000/- within the time schedule, Hrishikesh was released on the same night. G.O.C. and chief of Garamdal of Mahisadal Thana Jatiya Sarkar was instructed by the C-in-C to shoulder the risk and responsibility to send Hrishikesh from jail custody at Khanchi up to his residence by a palanquin as he was still then unfit to cover the way on foot due to his injury in both the knees. The palanquin was being carried under the strict supervision of guarded soldier of Action Squad led by G.O.C. Mahisadal upto the border point of Sutahata P.S. and the remaining part to his residence would be done under the supervision and arrangement by the G.O.C. of Thana Jatiya Sarkar of Sutahata. In this way Hrishikesh reached his residence by palanquin—the distance covered 10 to 12 miles by safe route.¹⁰

It was really beyond imagination and unthinkable how much serious risk was involved in the execution of the whole programme. All activists of Bahini were consciously prepared to face all odds including even death, if the Tripathis conspired by negotiation with the British administration. This is also appreciated that the captive brothers did not violate gentlemen's agreement and promise although this was fulfilled under pressure of fear and suspense.

Top ranking police officers rushed to Debhog Shymacharan's residence to record their statements after release of Amalesh and Hrishikesh next day in their residence. Both the brothers remained dumb on the queries of Police, as learnt later on. It was also learnt from a retired I.B. then in service, Lord R. J. Kassie. The Governor of Bengal, called for Amalesh. It was also learnt that Mr. Kassie wanted to know in details about his

experience and personal impression about Tamralipta Jatiya Sarkar, particularly arrangement of prison and other administration in their custody. I do admit that inspite of my utmost effort, I could not collect any record of authenticity of statement of Amalesh reported to the Governor. From interview with a Police Inspector that Amalesh described his impression as— the organising capacity in all stages after his arrest, detention in custody were most deciplined, involving planned with devoted patriotic sense of high order. He also referred about jail custody— about two ladies, as jailor, the P.A. to judge who were expert eloquent speaker in Hindi and English— clothed in most sophisticated dress and very gentle in manners.

Detailed information as to execution of punishment "DESANTAR" awarded of the alleged culprits are not available excepting Ajimuddin. No authentic record nor any source available for verification. Only names of 13 persons with their addresses and respective profession are enlisted here as published in "Tamluk Mahakumar Swadhinata Sangramer Ghatanapanji" by Gopinandan Goswami.

From local enquiry, this transpires that most of them belonged to Government Agencies. Almost many of them were alleged to provoke local people to appear before the Court to adduce false evidences against the soldiers of National Government against whom F.I.R. with charge-sheets for decoity and murder submitted by the British Administration.

LIST OF OFFENDERS AWARDED "DESANTAR" AS PUNISHMENT

| | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Mahadeb Bera | Dafadar | Vill.— Gobindapur |
| 2. Indra Samanta | " | " Monoharpur |
| 3. Sk. Momin | Choukidar | " Sridharpur |
| 4. Baneswar Patra | Coastal Guard | " Kukrahati |
| 5. Sripati Bera | President Panchayet | Ramgopalchowk |
| 6. Shasi Maity | | " Srikrishnapur |
| 7. Radhakanta Pandit | | " Basanchowk |
| 8. Beni Madhab Bhunia | | " Anantapur |
| 9. Sk. Nemaji | | " Bar-Basudebpur |
| 10. Beni Prasad Bag. | | " Anarpur |

11. Lalit Das Pande Union No. 10 " Bar-Basudebpur
12. One unknown of Military service " Sishuramchak
- *13. Labu Khan. One jail released notorious decoit.

* He was physically punished. His two eyes were taken away outside the sockets. He died after few weeks.¹¹

List of Garamdal Sainiks of SUTAHATA THANA JATIYA SARKAR

1. Sri Bidhu Bhusan Kuity, G.O.C. and Thana Garamdal Chief.
2. " Jadupati Maity ; Commandant. Vill- Bar Basudebpur.
Chaklallpur
3. " Shyamapada Bosai " Chakdwipa
4. " Ram Chandra Samanta " Haldia.
5. " Bidhu Bhusan Samanta " Haldia.
6. " Manmatha Nath Sanki " Darimbachak
7. " Prabir Chandra Paul " Bar-Bajitpur
8. " Hrishikesh Das " Basanchak

ASSOCIATED SAINIKS OF ACTION SQUAD

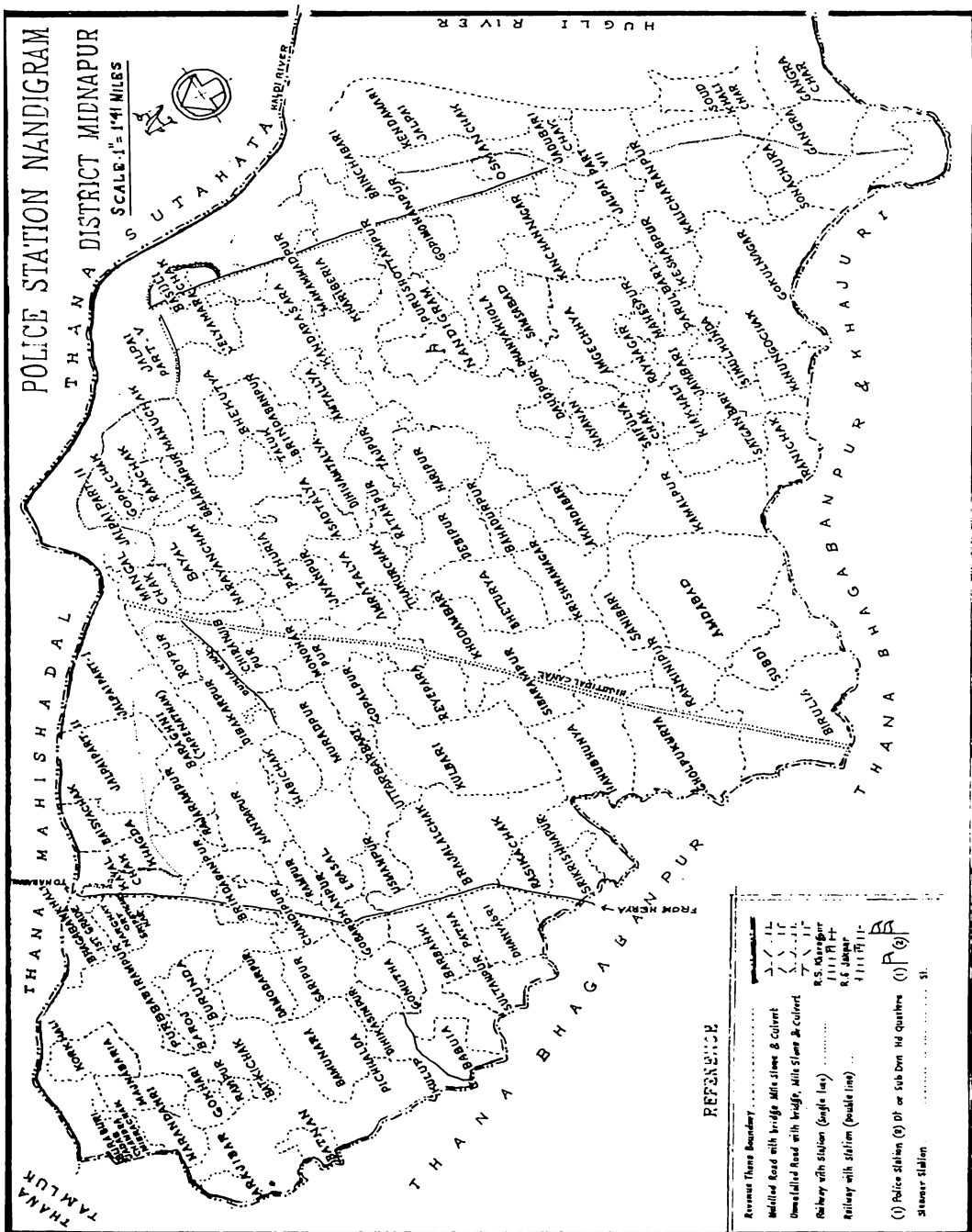
1. Sri Ashutosh Maity Vill. Babupur
2. " Bhabataran Nayak " Simulberia
3. " Gopal Chandra Bera ,, Hadia
4. " Hemanta Kumar Bera ,, "
5. " Manindra Nath Samanta ,, "
6. " Jiban Krishna Das " Anandapur
7. " Hrishikesh Acharya " Dalimbachak
8. " Prankrishna Das " Hadia
9. " Sushil Khutia " Kumarpur
10. " Paresh Santra ,, Monoharpur
11. " Khudiram Jana ,, "
12. " Lakshmikanta Adhikary " Basudebpur
13. " Hrishikesh Ghora " Joynagar
14. " Boymkesh Maity " Dhanyaghata
15. " Manmathanath Samanta " Murarichak
16. " Bhusan Chandra Bera " Ramgopalchak¹²
17. " Byomkesh Dandapat " "

[The above list is being prepared from the Record of
Tamralipta Itihas Committee.]

ACTIVITIES OF GARAMDAL NANDIGRAM THANA JATIYA SARKAR

Nandigram although within the sub-division of Tamluk, in fact, this P.S. was more associated with Contai Sub-Division because of its geographical position and in joint participation in the past in an stages of freedom struggle. The area was completely detached by the river Haldi from other P.S. of Tamluk Sub-division. Not an inch of metal road was built during the British rule in Nandigram P.S. Hence Communication by road was completely disconnected specially in rainy season with the sub-divisional Head Quarter. Besides, the River Haldi divided the P.S. on the the south. This communication gap between Tamluk Head Quarter to P.S. was linked up by two Ferry Ghats at Terapekhia and Narghat. The structure of mental sentiments of the people in general was also different. Kunja Behari Bhaktadas, Adhinayak, and the finance minister Satish Chandra Sahoo, were staunch followers of Gandhiji. All other members of his Cabinet were also of the same mental structure with Gandhian ideology.

The C-in-C of national militia was the director regarding Garamdal activities of all thana Jatiya Sarkar. But Nandigram was the only exception as to policy and awarding punishment of the criminals, for maintaining law and order situation and also processing action of Garamdal. Satish Chandra Sahoo, was also a man of the same temperament, as Finance & Education Minister. In case of Nandigram it was mandatory that the final orders regarding action by the Garamdal on the criminals to be discussed in the Cabinet before execution. Adhinayak must be satisfied about respective allegations against the informers or criminals and then the punishment order recommended, to be approved and to be countersigned by him. Of course, in other departments the Ministers in charge of his own Deptt. had absolute authority to take decision and execution of orders passed to be acted upon with the assistance of Bidyut Bahini as and when needed. Another special feature in administrative policy of the Thana Jatiya Sarkar in relation to Notices and



Proclamations, specially, in connection with relief matters, movement of foodgrains, students' co-operation, Hindu Muslim Unity to be published in the Nandigram Bulletin to be well circulated. After receiving reports about public opinion on those matters, Jatiya Sarkar might amend, if necessary for the interest of the people. Some of the appeal, notice and proclamation issued by the Adhinayak, are recorded here for ready reference.

Proclamation No. 1 Dt. 1-2-1943 :

Each P.S. of Tamralipta Jatiya Sarkar is being actively functioning with Home, Judicial, Education Deptt. I appeal to the people of Nandigram to co-operate with the Thana Jatiya Sarkar to drive away the British.

Sd/- Kunja Behari Bhaktadas
Adhinayak.

Proclamation No. 2 dt. 4-2-1943 :

To the Businessmen of Nandigram.

Under acute food crisis, innumerable men, women and children have been facing death. It is hereby ordered that sale of rice, paddy in the market or to move outside area is being prohibited —the only exception allowed in case of neighbouring villages in the areas of Nandigram P.S. In case of every day necessary goods including vegetables should be sold at a reasonable price. Violation of this order will be taken into serious action like imprisonment and fine or both.

Sd/- Kunja Behari Bhaktadas
Adhinayak.

Proclamation No.3, dt. 10.3.1943

To the Muslim Community :

"Muslim friends" we had been living here with close brotherly feelings, since pre-historical age. Irrespective of the Hindus and Muslims, Bargadars of both rich Hindus and Muslims are served by doctors, washermen and bargadars without any bar of caste. On 30th September, 1942 both Hindus & muslims joined hand in hand when attacking Police Station on 30th and embraced death, among them are Hindus as well as Muslims. Now some muslims as agents jointly with British Raj looted Hindus' houses, set fire on Congress workers'

houses. Independence must come soon and we all will be equal partners of all benefits. So my earnest appeal to the Muslims to be restrained from such contemptible crimes

Be partner with National Government otherwise you must have to suffer the evil consequence.

Sd/- Kunja Behari Bhaktadas
Adhinayak.

Notification : dt. 05.2.1942.

People are cautioned —do not snatch away any material of relief dole—rice, paddy or any food grains from others —Permit system is in force to carry any food grains from one village to another and outside area of P.S. Jatiya Sarkar will stand as guarantor in borrowing paddy and rice from the willing stockists having surplus stock on loan basis and such loan is interest free loan.¹²

Sd/- Kunja Behari Bhaktadas
Adhinayak.

Proclamation dt. 15.3.1943 & Notification No. 9, 1350 B.S.¹³

People of Nandigram are requested not to believe the false propaganda by the police of British Administration that national soldiers of Jatiya Sarkar and Bidyut Bahini with the help of professional dacoits committed looting, theft and dacoity, abduction of women in disguise of police dress in the darkness of night as circulated by British agents. I appeal —do not believe such rumour. This is an attempt of false propaganda against National Government. So long we adopted non-violence to maintain law and order tried to restrain Police. Informers, Chowkidar and other agents with earnest appeal to them. Now it is high time to warn all concerned on behalf of the National Govt. to stop such criminal activities by all means. Remember independence in India is as true as Sunshine. Do not deprive your future generations from the golden opportunities, of independence.

Be friendly and co-operate with Jatiya Sarkar.

Do not forget—even a single criminal person would not be escaped —rich or poor, Hindus or Muslims. All of them must be

punished in independent India.

So, abstain from all sorts of co-operation with the police and military of the enemy government.

Sd/- Kunja Behari Bhaktadas
Adhinayak.

Banga Bhusan Bhakta, G.O.C and Thana Garamdal Chief annotated that the effect of appeal and proclamation issued in the Nandigram Bulletin by the Adhinayak and by wide publicity created a far-reaching influence among the public in general.

Only 5 spies – informers directly implicated in case of raping were awarded "Desantar" punishment.

In whole P.S. there were 11 raped cases. 6 were committed by British Military Army or by the pathan police on their way enroute to Gopinathpur and Bhagwanpur military camps in Contai Sub-division from Tamluk Military camp at night in Western part of the Nandigram P.S. In those events of ravages not a single Chowkidar or Dafadar nor any local agent were involved.

D E S A N T A R (Transportaion of life)¹⁴

Processing and Execution of Ramanath Ojha

He was Dafadar of Union No. 4. He was provoked by the President of the Board to help police arresting national soldiers, congress workers at night when male members remained absent. He was alleged to inform about names of messengers engaged to carry secret letters of National Government to different war camps inside areas. As the postal department was not safe, urgent communication from Contai Sub-division was also performed by special messenger through Nandigram Jatiya Sarkar via Nandigram and Tamluk to Provincial Congress head quarter at Calcutta. This mail service from whole of Contai "Swaraj Panchayet" in pseudonym as "Sagar" was being maintained regularly since news papers were gagged. G.O.C. enquired and as complaint was found genuine recommended the case to Adhinayak for approval of his "Desantar".

He searched a soldier carrying one day when important letters with him, he was caught red-handed by the G.O.C. associated with his Bahini at about 1 p.m. Action was taken in the midst of paddy field. His dead body was tied up under water of 'Manudighi' a big pond in his union at Nandapur. The pond was a big one and was full of thick water-hyacinth. After three days this dead body was found floating over the water. Local people observed this scene for continuous ten hours till the body was removed by the police to Tamluk for post mortem. By this demonstration, the direct effect was no spy nor traitor ventured to do such mischief in future in the western zone of P.S.

After enquiry against that provoking president of Union No. 4 I.B. also reported that he also issued notices to the flood-stricken people for payment of due taxes by a schedule date. Although by proclamation, they were ordered not to collect taxes. For non compliance of payment movable assets were put to auction sale. G.O.C. recommended to destroy his office by fire. Accordingly his office was set on fire by Garamdal as approved by the Adhinayak.

Processing and Execution of Girish Das :

One Girish Das of Vill. Gopalpur was Dafadar of Union No. 9, Judicial department alleged against him refering a bundle of complaints from the villagers of Reapara, Krishnanagar, Veturia, Gopalpur. He has constant touch with the military camp at Terapekhia. Most of the national soldiers and congress workers took shelter in those villages. The said Dafadar every now and then accompanied by military force looted their houses. At night he helped military and local police to raid their houses as male members remained absent to avoid arrest. They took opportunity to oppress women and children in search of national soldiers and congress workers. It would not be out of place to mention that women of those locality assembled in particular adjacent selected house at night for safety and passed the whole night there. But some aged old ladies and widows became victims and ravaged by the police and military who remained in their house. He had another companion as informer named Sadananda of village Reapara who led them with route direction. G.O.C. with I.B. Rabindranath Giri and Aswini Das Adhikary verified all allegations against him and

was satisfied of his crimes. He was recommended for "Dasantar" and was duly approved by the Adhinayak.

Once he was invited by his associate friend in liquor majlis (dinner) at Monoharpur. Both the I.B. were watchful in his movement. On his way back towards his home direction, he was captured by soldiers of Bahini and completed action by special tricks and method. Then his deadbody was packed inside a sack, carried by the Haldi River side just a mile away. His body was dissected and thrown into the river.

Processing and Execution of Sadananda Giri :

After a week next target was Sadananda Giri a friend associate partner in looting. He resided on the bank of Hijly Tidal canal. He was in an advantageous position to contact everyday police and military as they usually use to go by this way to different villages from Terapakhia Military Camp. After missing of his friend —culprit Girish he became alert and very much cautious and careful in his movement. For his protection one armed constable was posted in his house every night. Both the I.B. with Bahini waited for opportune moment after reporting his crime similar to that of Girish. Adhinayak approved "Desantar" for his activities. After constant persuasions, I.B. again reported that police guard generally came to his residence from Terapekhia military camp after 7 p.m. Some two other persons also remained with him for the whole night. At this report G.O.C. asked the Bahini to keep soldiers ready to raid his house just at dusk on the next day.

Accordingly, on the next day just after dusk, soldiers of Garamdal surrounded his house armed with toy revolvers and toy big guns made of wood, entered inside his thatched shelter, forcibly took him outside by pull and haul —then he was carried by stout soldiers on point of guns and revolvers at a distance of about two miles. There the action was completed by special technique. His head was being separated from the body. Then it was decided to put the head on a bamboo stand on that spot for demonstration as long as that dissected head might not be removed by the police. The constable on duty reached in his house at 7–30 p.m. and heard that Sadananda was arrested few hours ahead and now under the custody of Jatiya Sarkar. He left the place instantly, being nervous, but he did not venture to

return to Terapekhia military camp with apprehension of being attacked by Bahini on the way and on the other side, he might be punished by the military for negligence of his duty. Since early morning people from oppressed villages came and enjoyed with appreciation of Garamdal action. Before afternoon, military and police came to the spot and returned with the separated head of Sadananda from the body, marching in broad day light. This was another march— demonstration which was observed from a safe distance by the villagers.

By this efforts of Action Squad Jatiya Sarkar carried support of cordial co-operation and sentiment among the public that Garamdal was more powerful than the British. Neither any police raided nor any oppressive measure was imposed by the administration nor there happened any single case of raping on the locality there after in the middle zone of P.S.

Processing and Execution of a Beggar Women :

One beggar women wife of Prabodh samanta of Kesabpur-Jalpai, just opposite to the river Haldi in P.S. Mahisadal came with her children for begging at Terapekhia bazar. Bhim Choukidar has posted on duty to police camp, taking her to a lonely place with assurance to give her food and relief Dole and there she was raped by him. Local people, hearing her statement lodged complain to the judiciary. Judicial department of P.S. Mahisadal took this with serious exception as the oppressed women with her children was starving beggar. The case was referred to Adhinayak recommending for approval early action. I.B. enquired and found the allegation was true. G.O.C. recommended for "Destantar" of Bhim Chowkidar. Adhinayak approved his punishment. After receiving final verdict, Action Squad arrested Bhim on his way to Terapekhia Police Camp at 7 a.m. and put to custody. Next day, he was awarded punishment on the bank of the river Haldi near Basulichak at night and his deadbody was thrown into the river.

Processing and Execution of Kaisar Mir

Kaisar Mir was a Dafadar of Union No. 5. He was posted on duty to attend Terapekhia Ferry Ghat to help military army enroute from Tamluk to different villages of Nandigram and

again on return journey to Tamluk. Once a military truck fell down by a road side ditch near village Kayalchak. Kaisar was deputed to call some manual labour from the near villages for lifting the truck. He went inside the village and molested wife of Kanai Kar finding her alone in her house. Kanai was a day labourer and went out then for job. Kanai returned home in the evening and found her ill due to heavy blood discharge. Kanai Kar lodged a complaint against Kaisar refering the above incident to the judiciary. Along with this, judicial department also forwarded other 11 allegations against Kaisar that he was habituated to collect money and fish, goats, hens and vegetable products from the villagers by threatening them as they were supporters of Jatiya Sarkar, Police ordered him to enquire and report. If they did not comply with his demand proposal he asserted that their houses would be looted by the police next day and arrest them. After enquiry by I.B. the fact of allegations, were proved true. He was recommended for "Desanter". Order of Adhinayak was passed accordingly. Once at 8 p.m. when he came on the river bank to perform nature's call, national soldiers arrested him by applying jujutsu trick. He fell down on the ground when sharp dagger being pierced through his breast. Then his body was dissected and thrown in the river.

FINE REALISED FOR MISAPPROPRIATION OF RELIEF FUND

One Kinsman, co-partner of Zaminder Kar family of Habichak in Union No. 4 in collaboration with relief officer took share of money in name of false personal allotment. On verification of such complaint by the local people, judicial department punished him with a fine of Rs. 4,000/- and issued notice for payment by a fixed date. As he did not comply, judiciary referred to Action Squard for realisation.

Only notice under signature of Adhinayak was issued for payment on a fixed date with intimations that in case of his failure to pay by the schedule time and date — "Garamdal"

would take proper action. Culprit paid the full amount by negotiation as he had his past experience of executed punishment to Ramanath Ojha in the Manudighi only a few furlong distance from his residence. For similar offence other 15 culprits of village panchayet were punished to pay fine of Rs. 1000 each in the central zone of the P.S.¹⁵

DACOITS AND THIEVES WERE PHYSICALLY PUNISHED

Some of the notorious dacoits, after being released from jail before conviction period, by the British administration made a gang with local people and began to commit decoity dressed in Khaki Shirts and shorts.

They represented themselves as constables of police station Nandigram. After few cases, villagers complained before O/C of Police Station. The officer incharge drove them away on the plea that those goondas belonged to national army of Jatiya Sarkar. They were active in villages of extreme Southern and Eastern areas. Judicial department received applications from such 12 villages and forwarded to Adhinayak direct to take action by the Action Squad. I.B. department enquired into the matter and recommended to appoint batch of night watch men in those areas. Within a week in three villages the soldiers of Action Squad caught red-handed leaders of 15 gang of dacoits and arrested them. In the trial court they were severely whipped and seriously tortured physically. Some of them became inactive for the whole life as symbolic national traitors.¹⁶

Recent interviews with 5 active participants of Garamdal in Nandigram Thana Jatiya Sarkar, to opine their views about less troubled administration in maintaining law and order of such a big police station comprising of 255 villages with an area of 171 squar miles where only 5 traitors were awarded "Desantar" in comparison to that of other Thana Jatiya Sarkars and also they were requested to comment how the Adhinayak and other ministers escaped arrest by the British since the formation of Thana Jatiya Sarkar on the 26th January 1943 to the date of wiped out on the 29th September 1944 on which date they courted self-arrest on Gandhiji's call.

Their authoritative and animate reply was in favour on nationalism and patriotism of people of Nandigram and all others P.S. in the sub-division taught them to endure regular sight of brutal tortures, helped with enormous tenacity in evaporating all fear and distress, so long deep-rooted within their mind and sentiment. Secondly, all the aged ministers, Adhinayak served the people irrespective of caste and creed during their execution of constructive programme of Gandhiji since 1925. From both sides they were in a family relations more or less in the past. In Quit India Movement, all of them were protected with food and safe shelter in each houses during this flood and typhoon. All oppressed family and ravaged mothers and sisters even the victims who became martyres had consolation and financial help from Jatiya Sarkar. It will not be out of place to mention, those who sacrificed lives during thana attack on the 30th September, Congress leaders went to those families and distributed monetary help house to house collected by kind hearted Shyamaprasad Mukherjee taking risk of arrest with in the areas easy reach of military camp and police station.

Lastly, the administrative policy of Adhinayak based on Gandhian ideology to appeal to the general mass by Nandigram Bullentin, different proclamation were circulated among the people with opportunity to co-operate with Jatiya Sarkar were vital. Finally, the culprites were warned severely for fatal consequence when they had not been restrained any way. In this P.S. both appeal with co-operation and help from Jatiya Sarkar in one side was combined with strong ultimate execution of punishment influenced the people to be loyal to the National Government.

List of Garamdal Sainiks of NANDIGRAM THANA JATIYA SARKAR.

- | | |
|---|-----------------------|
| 1. Sri Banga Bhusan Bhakta, Home Minister, G.O.C. and | Thana Garamdal Chief. |
| | Vill. – Dhanyashri |
| 2. „ Kanailal Samanta., Commandant | – do – |
| 3. „ Sudhansu Shekhar Maity. | Gargram. |

| | |
|---------------------------|-------------------|
| 4. " Narendranath Paria | Dihi - Kashimpur. |
| 5. " Srikanta Paria. | — do — |
| 6. " Rabindranath Giri | Reapara |
| 7. " Aswini Das Adhikary | — do — |
| 8. " Satish Chandra Maity | Kadamtola |
| 9. " Upendranath Bera. | Barabari |
| 10. " Bankim Chandra Bera | Shyamsundarpur. |

Associated Sainiks of Action Squad.

| | |
|------------------------------|---|
| 1. Sri Gorached Paria. | Vill — Bajaberia (Now under P.S. Bhagwanpur) |
| 2. " Madan Gopal Bhakta. | Dhanyashri. |
| 3. " Pasupati Giri Goswami | Gopalpur. |
| 4. " Makhanlal Middya | Ratanpur |
| 5. " Mathan Chandra Dhara | Rashikachowk |
| 6. " Bankim Chandra Bhakta | Kulbari |
| 7. " Sudhir Chandra Sanki | — do — |
| 8. " Madhab Chandra Sanki | — do — |
| 9. " Kenaram Giri | Bansgora. |
| 10. " Bhuban Chandra Adak | — do — |
| 11. " Benimadhab Giri | Brindabanpur. |
| 12. " Sk. Amiruddin | Sultanpur. |
| 13. " Bilas Chandra Pradhan. | Bhagwankhali. |
| 14. " Muchiram Mandal. | Batnan. ¹⁵ |

S/D. Banga Bhusan Bhakta,
G.O.C. and Thana Garamdal chief.

ACTIVITIES OF GARAMDAL TAMLUK THANA JATIYA SARKAR

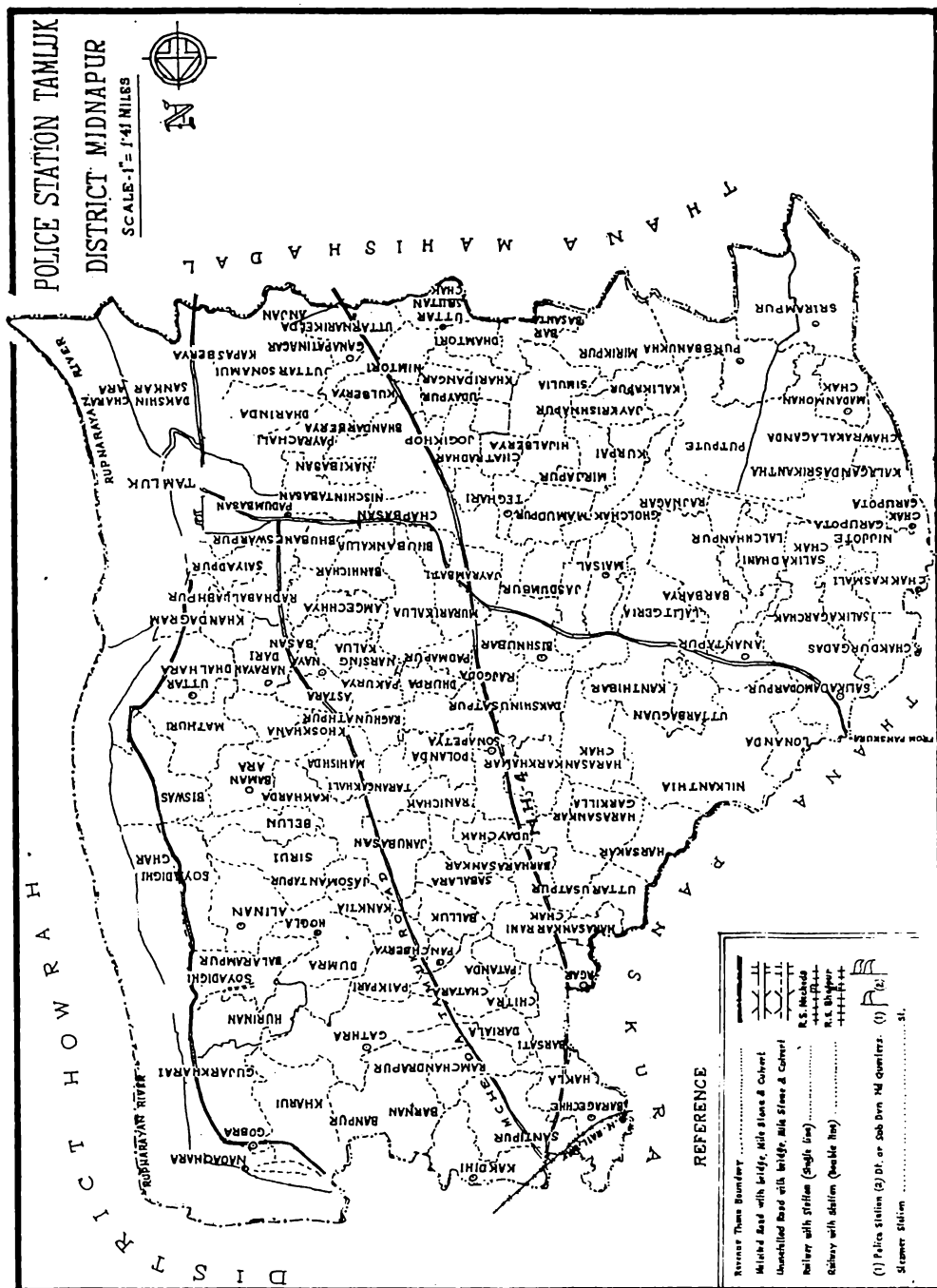
When in all P.S. Jatiya Sarkars had been successfully maintaining law and order and people in general were benefitted with relief and financial assistance after typhoon, Ajoy Kumar Mukherjee, the second Sarbadhinayak was arrested by a large police Bahini on 19.9.43 in his secret shelter at Ganapatinagar in P.S. Tamluk. It is most unfortunate, inspite of well guarded by faithful national soldiers like Rakhal Maity, Rasamoy Khatua and Sadhuda (code name of Rasik Paul) under their strict supervision, he could not escape arrest. Just after his arrest, S.K. Dhara, (remained underground) the chief, with the I.B. started enquiry for source responsible for this act.

Processing and Execution of Kiran Mal

It was revealed on investigation by the chief that one Kiran Mal of Vill. Narkelda union no. 3 was a Chaprasi (peon) in the S.D.O.'s office at Tamluk and he often came to a widow resided in the neighbouring house of Sarbadhinayak's shelter. He was informed by the next door widow neighbour about a stranger (narrated his physical descriptions) who every very early performed his natures' call in last part of night into darkness regularly, under near shed of a betel-leaf structure. Kiran had additional income, earned by instigating joint co-sharer of the locality for litigation against each other. Two three complaint petitions were handed over to the Ahinayak direct from Baichberia village. Kiran was also engaged on terms of money, by S.D.O. and O/C about reality of incidental death of Sushil Dhara, the C-in-C and Chief of Garamdal as circulated among people as rumour after released on bail. It was also learnt that Kiran had illicit connection with that widow who then confirmed about stay of Ajoy Kumar in that house from next door neighbour-widow reported this to Kiran.

It took 18/20 days to make necessary arrangements for execution of action plan.

Kiran was very much cautious in his movement. After office from Tamluk he almost every day changed his usual



route. But in every evening he waited for his local clients (litigated persons) in a small tea-stall near Nimtouri.

On the fixed date of actions, one faithful assistant Radhakrishna Bari (Code Name Suku) was advised to reach the destination fixed, accompanied by Usha and Jyotsna (code name Buri and Mantu or P.A. to judge), two female soldiers of Bhagini Sena. Suku was directed to adopt route in round about way to avoid suspicion of villagers and passers by. In this operation Jyotsna's role was of a newly married lady who was going to her father-in-law's house, and Usha was her elder sister-associated companion to look after her in a new family atmosphere. Suku (Radhakrishna Bari) as the brother of newly married sister carried a pot of sweets in his hand for the relatives as per custom. In fact Suku was the guide to lead two Bhagini Senas directing them route to the action field. All these arrangements were done to bewilder others pedestrians. The tea stall where Kiran haunted every evening was on the west bank of a local small canal (Khal). Garamdal Chief with other national soldiers of the Bahini would be waiting on the East bank of the canal. Suku was advised to reach with the Bhagini Senas on that spot. There was a very weak bamboo bridge locally made just to cross the canal to reach the western bank. Suku and Bhagini Senas of Action Squad reached at dusk on the east bank and found the Bahini was ready there for operation.¹⁷

Suku was then directed to return to his place as the chief did not desire his presence at the time of action. By this time Kiran came to the tea-stall. The chief, S.K. Dhara did not like to miss this opportune moment as there was then none in tea-stall excepting a boy employee of minor age. He crossed the canal over the weak bamboo bridge with risk. Immediately he caught hold of Kiran by his hand within his strong grip and pushed him into the canal-water when other national soldiers of Garamdal jumped upon him and completed the planned action by special technique. Then they lifted his deadbody on the east bank. The deadbody was packed in a sack full of husk of paddy and carried on the north Bank of the river Haldi near Tengrakhali.

Instantly necessary processing of dissection was done there with direct help of Bhagini Senas and the deadbody was thrown in the river current ebb-tide.

Processing and Execution of Nani Das :

One Nani Das of Vill. Kakharda was an informer. He used to contact police camp so cleverly that none could doubt about his activities. He regularly came to Durma to pluck lotus in the pond. On the bank of pond there was war camp of Congress volunteers. Nani was friendly with the soldiers and during conversation tried to collect information about national soldiers and of Garamdal activities. But the trained army were very much cautious not to budge an inch from secrecy. Nani's mother was also acquainted to the local congress worker. Several times the supporter of Jatiya Sarkar of that locality informed his mother about his ill motive and warned about his activities with police camp. Suddenly, one night police surrounded the war camp at night in search of national volunteers. But at that time none was there. Being enraged police threatend Nani and asked him to set fire on the war camp by his own hand. On that occasion some villagers found Nani's act from a distance. The camp was completely destroyed. The war camp was immediately shifted to Paikpasi. After a week people of Paikpasi also alleged that Nani was found in the locality every now and then and enquired of shelter of congress workers and of national soldiers of Garamdal. On this informations local congress workers informed Nani's mother and asked her to present him and to be restrained from spying against Jatiya Sarkar. Instead, Nani was more enthusiastic. As a result, police continued raid in neighbouring villages insearch of houses of patrones of Jatiya Sarkar. Police looted and women and children were oppressed by whiping to have information about the owner's of house where soldiers of national government were provided with shelter. People alleged to Adhinayak against Nani and appealed to take action.¹⁸

One night soldiers of Action Squad lifted him from his bed. On that night he was alone in his house. On point of dagger he was forced to follow the Bahini. At a distance of the mile off from his house, he was punished for "Dasantar". Then his dead body was carried to the bank of the river Rupnarayan where dissection was completed by Ashutosh Mondal and the dead body was thrown into the river.

**List of Garamdal Sainiks of
TAMLUK THANA JATIYA SARKAR.**

- | | |
|--|---------------|
| 1. Sri Narendranath Jana, G.O.C. and Thana Garamdal Chief. | Vill — Bulluk |
| 2. „ Naran Chandra Kar | — do — |
| 3. „ Amulya Charan Maity | Sonapeta. |
| 4. „ Ashutosh Mandal. | Demarihat. |
| 5. „ Haripada Mandal | Polanda. |
| 6. „ Hirendranath Ray. | Tamluk. |
| 7. „ Dibakar Bhattacharya. | Jogi-khop. |

Associated Sainiks of Action Squad

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------|
| 1. Sri Haripada Paria. | Vill. Chabia. |
| 2. „ Khudiram Mal. | — do — |
| 3. „ Sudhir Chandra Mal | — do — |
| 4. „ Kanailal Maity. | Polanda |
| 5. „ Baneswar Mandal | — do — |
| 6. „ Beneswar Manna | — do — |
| 7. „ Pulin Maity | Mirikpur |
| 8. „ Haripada Maity | — do — |
| 9. „ Narendranath Adak. | Ajingachia. |
| 10. „ Sudhir Chandra Bhattacharji | Kelomal. |
| 11. „ Kartik Chandra Maji | Camra. |
| 12. „ Motilal Singh. | Laluageria. |

[The above list is being prepared from the Rocord of Tamralipta Itihas Committee. Verified by Sri Amulya Charan Maity, Adhinayak, Tamluk Thana Jatiya Sarkar.]

* Recorded from Swadhinata Sangramer Ghatanapanji by Gopinandan Goswami. P-36.

1. S.K. Guha, President of Kalyanchak Gourmohon Institution and P. N. Guha, were appointed by the Education Deptt. as peripatetic lecturers who visited all H.E. Schools in the district and delivered lectures in favour of British Raj (purpose to create favourable sentiment for the Govt. among students and teacher.)

2. Call of O.C. of P.S. & Prabaha by S. K. Dhara P-139 (2nd Edition).
3. Local Self Govt. employee (like present Panchayet System).
4. Ibid, Prabaha by S.K. Dhara, P-140.
5. Just before 2 days the Japanese bomb was thrown in Calcutta Dock area. Newspaper-April '43,
Ibid Prabaha by S. K. Dhara P-140
6. Interview with Gopinandan Goswami & Prabaha, P-140.
7. Tamluk Mahakumar Swadhinata Sangramer Ghatanapanji by Gopinandan Goswami P-35 & 37 respectively.
8. Tamralipta Jatiya Sarkar Amale Baipalbic Karmakanda by Goswami. Published in "Tamralipta" on Dec. 16, from Tamluk, Midnapur & Ibid. Prabaha by Dhara. P-140, 1977.
9. Interview with Sri Nagendranath Sahoo—Debhog.
10. Ibid. "Tamralipta" by Goswami Dec. 23, 1977 & Ibid, Prabaha by Dhara. P-145, 146. Tape Record (collected by Goswami) from Banibrata Tripathi.
11. Ibid. S.S. Ghatanapanji by Goswami. P-36.
12. Notification. dt. 5.2.42. Tamralipta Itihas Commnt.
13. Proclamation No. 9. Tamralipta Itihas Commnt.
14. Ibid. Nandigram S. Sangram by B.B. Bhakta. P-229
Ibid. Goswami Ghatanapanji P-36
15. Ibid. Nandigram S. S. by Bhakta. P-226 & Biplabi Issue No. 44
"Relief Deoar Name Panchayter Kirti"
16. Ibid. by Bhakta P-223, 224.
17. Interview with Sukumar Bari, Sey, Tamralipta S. Sangram Itihas Commnt.
18. Interview with Sri Amulya Charan Maity, Adhinayak, Tamluk Thana Jatiya Sarkar.

CHAPTER-V

AMAZING ADVENTURE OF AJOY KUMAR MUKHERJEE, THE SECOND SARBADHINAYAK

S.K. DHARA, C-IN-C AND GARAMDAL CHIEF UNDER THE ENEMY CUSTODY

During the tenure of about 5 months first Sarbadhinayak Satish Chandra Samanta (from 17th December, '42 to 26.05.43), S. K. Dhara awarded Capital punishment to 9 persons on allegation of co-operation with the Police in looting, raping and snatching of relief dole from flood-stricken people. After him, Ajoy Kumar Mukherjee was nominated as Second Sarbadhinayak. All Thana Jatiya Sarkars in 4 Police stations had been functioning efficiently with the active help of Judiciary and Action Squad. Side by side, the Police was also on the look out for arrest of the Chief of Action Squad. Eventually, Sushil Kumar was arrested by the enemy government on 29.4.44 from the safe-guarded fort house of Srimanta Manna of Amritberia by a batch of Police in plain dress led by I.B. special Branch.

This house was two storied but without staircase. Movable bamboo ladder is used to get on and get down. Through a 3' x 3' open space over the ceiling, the ladder could be taken away from upstairs when needed. Hence for absconding purpose such place was ideal one.

A batch of Police entered into the village in plain dress at about 10 A.M. Personal body-guards Basu (Sudhir Matia) and Nardu (Ajit Sing) did not have chance to doubt them, because they could not imagine that at daytime in such a safe and secured village might be raided... S. K. Dhara, the Chief saw them at a distance through the window and apprehended danger as they advanced towards the house. He at once got down and asked body guards to get on upstairs and close the lid after taking away the movable bamboo ladder. By this time

Garamdal Chief was prepared to avoid arrest tried to ran away through the back door of the house. He was bare bodied, only a napkin was wrapped round his waist so that none could recognize him as Sushil Dhara. He opened the back door. But in the meantime two policemen reached there. He pushed them applying jujutsu trick and made passage to go out and began to run fast. On the way there was a ditch. He tried to cross it by a long jump. Unfortunately, there was thin mud and he slipped and fell down in the ditch.

Instantly, two chasing policemen ascended, upon his body and other two companions reached there and began to beat with batons and to hit by kicks. They asked his name and wanted whereabouts of Sushil Dhara. The oppressed person with groaning said, "My name is Gobinda Santra, and I never see Sushil Dhara in my lifetime." Another batch of Policemen started house to house search for Sushil Dhara.

In spite of torturing, when Police failed to have any information about Sushil Dhara they dragged the arrested man before the Officer-in-charge awaiting in the courtyard of a house near by. S. K. Dhara found Kapatda another arrested soldier of Bidyut Bahini was being tortured. A new batch of Police was engaged to beat Sushil Dhara again. One of the Police Officer came to him and recognised him. He with ecstasy of joy in success uttered "well Sushil Babu, you look like a different man with your long beard and moustaches." He ordered Police men not to beat or torture him any more. The whole police batch with S. K. Dhara and Kapatda proceeded on way to Mahisadal Police Station.

Next day, S. K. Dhara and Kapatda jointly tied by a single rope round their waist and with hand-cuff sent to Tamluk. On presentation to the Court, Mr. Sen, the Magistrate ordered to send them back to Mahisadal for query about missing persons and their agents by the Garamdal. At the Police Station, the I.B. and others tyrannized and bore hard upon them physically and tortured to collect desired information about murder cases of Kachi and Moti of Jolla Muslim Pally and of Azimuddin of Sutahata. They firmly replied their ignorance of all incidents. After being unsuccessful to get them committed, on the fourth day they were again sent back to Tamluk and put up into jail Custody as under-trial prisoners.¹

After arrest of Sushil Dhara, British administration with their agents began to raid village after village in search of national soldiers, began to assault and oppress women and villagers with agility. All choukidars and local agents were provoked to encourage villagers to adduce evidence against Sushil Dhara. Ajoy Kumar, the second Sarbadhinayak advised the Adhinayaks of Mahisadal and Sutahata Thana Jatiya Sarkar to act in slow motion. But encouraged Nandigram and Tamluk Thana Jatiya Sarkars to be engaged earnestly in procurement of food by hunger-marched procession jointly with public co-operation and if necessary with assistance of Garamdal. He wanted the enemy administration to remain in care free mood in one side and to shift the activities from north to south zone of river Haldi so that a secret plot of plan might be performed smoothly for making arrangements so that Sushil Kumar Dhara might be taken outside jail custody.

SUSHIL KUMAR DHARA, RELEASED FROM ENEMY CUSTODY ON BAIL.

The administration of Tamluk sub-division including Midnapur District as a whole was relieved of last gasping stage from terror and were in happy mood began to relax. They were successful in presenting 2/3 witnesses before the Court to adduce false evidence as eye-witness about killing of missing persons by the activities of national soldiers. But within a short period two of them were missing. On the otherside, inside the jail custody, Sushil Dhara began to find out ways and means to come out of jail by leaping over the high boundary wall.

At the same time, Ajoy Kumar, the Sarbadhinayak managed to establish connection both inside and outside jail through Ramesh Chandra Kar, a faithful veteran follower of Gandhiji then was in town bail. He had a congenial relation with the jailor and Dr. Sen. Medical Officer of Jail. Ramesh Babu with the counsel of Dr. Sen attempted to formulate the plan of Sarbadhinayak to get Sushil Dhara out of jail custody.

On terms of money there was a secret deal between Ramesh Babu and Dr. Sen. Dr. Sen was agreed to issue a certificate in favour of Sushil Dhara that he was attacked with fatal disease and he might be allowed bail on medical grounds for his treatment. S. K. Dhara was informed accordingly inside

the jail. By this time about a month the captive, passed inside the jail expecting for necessary arrangement from outside by the Sarbadhinayak for his escape. As Dr. Sen advised, Sushil Kumar felt severe pain inside the belly since that moment. The patient rolled restless on the floor. All co-prisoners, senior Congress workers including Nilmony Hazra, the first Adhinayak of Mahisadal Thana Jatiya Sarkar, became very much anxious about his illness. On their demand, Dr. Sen was called on for several times. But he could not manage time to visit him inside the jail. On the third day doctor examined the patient. During this period he did not take any food, so as to be represented lean and thin with severe pain in the abdomen. Dr. Sen examined him and advised not to take any food except plain water for another two or three days. As a result the patient became weak and feeble. He was advised for his stool examination for diagnosis. S. K. Dhara followed Doctor's advice for another 3/4 days. No medicine was effective to relieve pain. On the fifth day Dr. Sen having report of stool examination came to final decision that he had been suffering from profuse internal hemorrhage in the stomach. He should be in complete bed-rest without any solid food; patient became emaciated and lost his weight. (He was previously habituated to undergo hunger strike in jail). On report, the Superintendent of jail, S.D.O. Mr. Khan came inside the jail and became astonished, and uttered "How a stout healthy revolutionist so soon became so deteriorated". The same day Ramesh Babu submitted a petition for his release on bail for proper treatment.

In spite of doctor's report and recommendation bail for better treatment S.D.O. turned down the bail petition with remark it was risky to allow him to go to outside as there were several charges of dacoity, murder under non-bailable section against him. Ajoy Mukherjee, Sarbadhinayak advised Ramesh Babu to move the case next day in early hours before the court of session judge, Midnapur against refusal for bail petition by S.D.O. Tamruk. Accordingly, next morning Ramesh Babu met the public prosecutor in his residence at first and complete the deal with him secretly. Appeal petition for granting bail of a seriously ill patient S. K. Dhara for his proper treatment was filed in the court of Mr. K. K. Hazra, I.C.S. Session judge

Midnapur mentioning the ground for refusal by the S.D.O. Tamluk. On his judgement Hon'ble Judge at the time of hearing asked the opinion of Public prosecutor in this matter. In reply, he only urged mentioning about seriousness of profuse internal hemorrhage of the arrested accused in jail, patient might be victim of accidental death at any time. But the public prosecutor neither supported in his favour nor opined against his bail petition. At this, Honourable Judge mentioned "well for criminology it is most important point to be considered here a captive should not be led to face sure death. Doctor's report is also corroborative with the fact. If necessary, administration may arrest him again at any time even if he fled away and remained underground, there is scope to find him out and put him to custody again." "The judge passed order in favour of S.K. Dhara allowing him for town bail. Public Prosecutor remained dead silent. On Judge's decision without loosing a moment Ramesh Babu hired a Taxi and reached Tamluk with the order. He first met Dr. Sen, consulted him about processing of the matter with urgency and requested him to prepare necessary papers so that the captive patient might be released on bail on the same day. Remesh Babu himself stood as witness guarantor in his Town bail petition. As per review order of session judge, Town bail was sanctioned and order was passed for his release on that very day, by the S.D.O. Tamluk. Ramesh Babu was present in the jail gate. He sent a Dhuti for S.K. Dhara and requested guard on duty to help the sick prisoner to accompany upto the gate and get him on the rickshaw, waiting there, within 10/15 minutes patient came out wearing one side of the dhuti covering his head and mouth completely by the other end of the cloth just to show as if he was really ill. The main purpose was to hide his present identification with beard and moustaches. He bade farewell to all prisoners with a low feeble voice. Rickshaw puller instantly dropped down the front screen as if to protect patient in his illness. It was about 3 P.M. all were busy in the court compound about their own business. Rickshaw safely moved from Court to Southern end of the town. After a mile rickshaw puller halted near "Paradise Hotel" as instructed. One Kaliprasanna Roy, muktear (advocate) was waiting there. He asked Dhara to follow him on the 1st floor of the Hotel in his room. Kali Babu closed the door asking him to

remain inside and the door was then bolted under lock and key. After two hours, Kali Babu came back with some delicious tiffin and sweets for Sushil Kumar. He was very glad and swallowed up with satiety after 7/8 days hunger strike. Kalibabu instructed Sushil Dhara to wait there till another guide reached after one hour to take him to the safe shelter. After release on town bail S.D.O. ordered the police inspector to visit the place of S. K. Dhara's shelter in the town at present during bail. S.D.O. also called on the I.B. and O/C. Tamluk P.S. to verify the present movement of Ramesh Babu and his present shelter. I.B. Officer after enquiry, reported that both of them could not be traced in town areas... S.D.O. then advised them to meet the advocate Bibhuti Bhatta who stood security guarantor on behalf of S. K. Dhara for Rs. 500/-. In spite of their utmost effort, O/C could neither trace S. K. Dhara nor Bibhuti Bhatta. Bibhuti left Tamluk on the day and lived in Sundarban till independence. In the meantime, one guide came to lodge of Kali Bhai at "Paradise Hotel" opened the door and handed over a chit in code language with instruction to follow the guide. Both of them reached Ganapati Nagar after crossing Charakpota and Dharinda. There on the bank of the canal Pandit, code name of Rakhal Maity was anxiously waiting counting each moment for them in the darkness with anxiety. S. K. Dhara became the guest of Rakhal Babu and took his night meal with full satisfaction. Sometimes after, a young chap came there. He was at once embraced by Sushil Babu under his arms with cordial affection. The young man could not expect this, with utter astonishment looked on his face and impenetrably uttered "Sushil Da" you. It will not be out of place to mention the whole planning was chalked out by Ajay Kumar the second director in so much strict secrecy, even his most near and dear faithful 24 hrs. associate Sainik Suku (code name of Radhakrishna Bari) was quite in the dark about his unexpected visit with Sushil Dhara, out side the jail custody.

After 12 at night guided by the security national guard both Suku and prisoner on bail started to walk along Tamluk-Srirampur Kachha familiar Road and completed the journey of 7/8 miles. In the last part of night security guard stopped in a courtyard of a tin-shed two storied building with mud wall. On some signal, Ajay Kumar Mukherjee, Second Sarbadhinayak

came down and directed Sushil Dhara to take his bed by his side on the upper floor, directing Suku to return his place. Sushil Dhara C-in-C shaved his beard and moustache in that night and came to his original form. Next day Sarbadhinayak and C-in-C of Bidyut Bahini spent whole day with close discussion about present position of movement during his absence. Future planning and programme was also discussed. At 10 p.m. next night Pandit came and guided S.K. Dhara to take him to his new shelter where he had to live for a month incognito as desired by the Sarbadhinayak.²

After town bail allowed for his treatment, self-concealment of Sushil Dhara again confused the British administration. During the period of his stay in jail for about 2 months they observed that violent activities lost all motion to a great extent in Mahisadal and Sutahata P.S. But after his release on bail, the I.B. and police again felt embarrassed at the instance of Nandigram and Tamluk activities and were in agony whether Sushil Dhara might have been engaged with them in their violent works.

Suddenly, after a fortnight one fine morning the news about death of Sushil Dhara was being widely circulated among the public at the initiative of faithful villagers, supporters of Jatiya Sarkar from man to man. It came to open air that he was admitted in Medical college Calcutta in his acute stage of illness and after his demise his funeral rites had already been performed at Nimtola Swasan Ghat. The rumour was spreaded over so tactfully that this shocking news was confirmed among the prisoners in Tamluk Sub-jail and the rumour crossed the boundary of doubt when the prisoners in Tamluk sub-jail observed the condolence meeting with deepest grief and tearful eyes and prayed for eternal peace for his soul.

All members of Thana Jatiya Sarkar were awaiting every moment about authenticity of the rumour from Sarbadhinayak. At last letters to all Thana Jatiya Sarkars reached to attend a meeting to be held on the third night of his expiry at Putputiya in the house of Rajkrishna Maity in P.S. Tamluk. All Adhinayaks, G.O.C.s were specially requested to attend a meeting (condolence was not mentioned) with other limited in number active soldiers of Action Squad on the fixed date in the evening. The place of meeting was selected in the upper floor of

a two storied thatched house where there was only one dimlighted lantern reflected faint light. Everyone took seat on a mattress calm and quiet, head bent down with grief. Suddenly a slow but steady sound of foot-steps from down to upper staircase heard gradually approaching nearer. Every one present raised head and found a bare bodied man wearing only a short dhuti upto knees appeared before them. Few minutes passed with astonishment, all were in a state as if spell-bound. None could believe their eyes whether a living human being or a ghost standing before them. Sarbadhinayak Ajay Kumar kindled the lantern a little bit more with smiling face. All found Sushil Kumar was physically present among them. Within a moment the whole atmosphere was changed. Thus the condolence was flooded by the waves of joy instead of tears of joy replaced the place and feelings of sorrows and grief.³

Now I step in to present the sportive and curious but super intellect planning of Ajay Kumar, the second Sarbadhinayak where near about 200 years experienced giant British administrative machinery became completely befuddled.

One sportive but thrilling performance of Sarbadhinayak in the interest of Tamralipta Jatiya Sarkar.

Continuous assiduous attempt for two months to get Sushil Dhara, the Chief of Action Squad outside the walls of jail custody, the plan of Sarbadhinayak became successful.

I am trying to display the factual manifestation of that courageous and heroic performance, specially done by Ramchandra Ray as advised by the Sarbadhinayak.

Ajoy Kumar deputed suku to carry a letter to Ramchandra Ray, a patron and faithful soldier of Jatiya Sarkar at Calcutta, directing therein the plan and after follow up action to be persuaded. Ramchandra read the letter most carefully and asked suku to go to another soldier, shri Niranjan Gosain with instruction to come back to Ramchandra at once accompanied by Niranjan. Accordingly, Suku performed his duty. Niranjan came and he was tutored by Ramchandra with all necessary instruction for future duty. Since this moment, Niranjan was deputed to play the role as defacto Sushil Dhara (on proxy). He also, as a patient inherited his acute gastric pain. Next early

morning Ramchandra and Suku accompanied with Niranjan (Substitute for Sushil Dhara) went to the chamber of the then reputed physician Dr. Amal Roy Chowdhury. In his chamber, the patient became restless with pain and began to express groaning sound for severe pain. Ramchandra humbly approached the doctor to examine Sushil Dhara, the patient, stating that he was a congress worker and then under trial prisoner in Tamluk sub-jail. The prescription of doctor Sen of Tamluk jail was handed over for his perusal in which it was mentioned that the patient had been suffering from profuse internal haemorrhage. Now he felt severe pain with blood vomiting. Ramchandra requested him to kindly examine the patient and if needed to recommend him so that he might be permitted to stay at Calcutta for better treatment. Doctor was kind enough to examine the patient allowing preference out of his turn. He referred the case to the Medical College Hospital for check up and investigation as recommended by Dr. Sen. Because he believed that the patient had been feeling severe pain. Ramchandra was a suspected person in the eye of I.B. He found one of the I.B. at a distance, so he left doctor's premises advising Suku to take Niranjan (proxy of S.K. Dhara) in the place of his residence. Ramchandra then went to Sashi Bhusan Maity, the compounder of Medical College Hospital soliciting his co-operation and advice for implementation of next stage of the plan. On the next early morning, both the care-takers (Suku and Ramchandra) of the patient reached Emergency Department of Calcutta Medical College Hospital as directed by Sashi Bhusan, the compounder. Visiting doctor arranged for his stool examination. Here also I.B. followed Ramchandra, so he left at once from the hospital campus advising Suku for follow up action consulting with Sashi Babu the compounder. Doctor observed, the patient became restless with pain, so before having report of stool examination, advised Suku to hospitalize the patient. Suku, with shaking nerves, approached the doctor in a low benign voice, that the ailing person was under-trial prisoner and he now remained on town bail at Tamluk. Due to his acute condition he was taken here without court's permission. Besides, Suku informed the doctor that on the next day his case would be heard before the court, and his presence is necessary. In the circumstances, Suku with extreme anxiety

requested the doctor to be kind enough to issue a certificate with strong recommendation so that he should be hospitalised immediately, then he (Suku) could try for courts permission and for this purpose, he must start for Tamluk at once and might come back by the afternoon with courts order when the patient could be admitted without any risk. Doctor heard this patiently. After half an hour, doctor called Suku and handed over the desired certificate on a Hospital Letter-Head mentioning therein that condition of the the patient gradually turned down acute and serious. So he should be admitted immediately and to be operated early. Suku left hospital with the certificate from the doctor and accompanied by the patient (defacto Sushil Dhara).³ The day after, a certificate was managed by the Burning Ghat Authority of Nimtola that the dead body of Sushil Dhara was burnt there. This plan of Sarbadhinayak Ajoy Mukherjee was performed and acted upon by shouldering risk upon Niranjana Gosain (proxy substitute in place of Shushil Dhara) Suku, Ramchandra, Sashi Bhusan (Compounder) and Nabakumar (code name of K.C. Mahapatra, another national soldier at Calcutta).⁴

Under the leadership of S. K. Dhara, the Chief of Garamdal, 60%⁵ of the total number of culprits were awarded punishment as "Desantar" (Capital punishment) and more than a lakh of rupees were realised as Fine to save lives of flood affected people during the tenure of second Sarbadhinayak Ajoy Kumar who was arrested by the enemy police on 19.9.43. After his arrest another 40% culprits were awarded capital punishment including the informer who helped police to arrest national soldiers and alleged for oppressing women by raping. P. S. wise report of violent activities bear testimony to his courageous risk of undertaking the plan to take S. K. Dhara out of the walls of jail custody for the interest of the people and of Tamralipta Jatiya Sarkar.

-
1. Prabaha by S. K. Dhara, The Garamdal chief P. 149, 150
 2. Ibid Prabaha, P. 151-155.
 3. Tarun Biplabi Sushil Kumar in his 80th birthday congratulation by B.B. Bhakta in the article published "Wave of Joy in a condolence meeting" P. 98.
 4. Interview with Suku. detailed information recorded.
 5. Ibid. Prabaha P. 162-166

CHAPTER—VI

ACTIVITIES OF JATIYA SARKAR DURING THE PERIOD OF THIRD AND FOURTH SARBADHINAYAK

Before Ajoy Kumar became captive under enemy government, people in four Thana Jatiya Sarkar under the administrative policy of second Sarbadhinayak remained satisfied as Law and Order was in less troubled condition, police oppression was also limited in flooded areas, thieves and dacoits did not venture to commit crimes for fear of Action Squad of Jatiya Sarkar. People were hopeful for good harvesting this year. This organised, diciplined national government created credential unification with the public which had permanent effect in mass sentiment upto the last day of winding up of Jatiya Sarkar on Gandhiji's call. It is re-iterated that more than 100 in number, informers and traitors wre punished by the Action Squad and more than 1. 1/2 lacks of rupees were realized as fine. After the arrest, of Ajoy Kumar Mukherjee, the Second Sarbadhinayak on '19.9.43, Satish Chandra Sahu, in addition to his duty as Finance and Education Minister of Nandigram Thana Jatiya Sarkar was nominated as Third Sarbadhinayak and the administration of national government had been in progress as before.

This will not be out of place to mention that after 1943, and upto March, 1944, series of changes occured in India in the then political situation both internal and external.

In the British Parliament, Labour Party came to majority and initiated the proposal for transference of power in India. Negotiation for releasing Gandhiji was also advancing with right earnest in the British Parliament.

It was also observed that in other provinces of India practically all sorts of movements collapsed excepting in Satara, where only a government anyhow existed as Paper Government. Azad Hind Fouz advanced upto the boarder of

Bengal but their slogan "DELHI CHOLO" faced the acute hardship. With deepest grief and sorrows people of India lost Kasura Bai on the 22nd, 1944 at Aga Khan palace... Gandhiji was reported by the Britishers that in whole of India there happened extreme violence by congress worker and for this, Gandhi was solely responsible and blamed as Quit India Movement was called by him.

In this changing political wrap and woof, Satish Chandra Sahu, the Third Sarbadhinayak, still upto March, 1944, followed the ways of administration as before. Considering the circumstantial gravity of situations, he consulted with congress workers while observing National Week on expiry of Kasturabi were engaged themselves in favour of Satyagraha with constructive programme. Here at Tamluk, although the followers of non-violent Gandhian leaders had established Tamralipta Jatiya Sarkar on command of situation, adopted violence by Action Squad to save the people from brutal oppression like looting raping, then they were startled and put to dilemma in the aforesaid condition. Specially when Gandhiji would be outside, he would never approve violent activities of Garamdal. In that case certainly the existance of Jatiya Sarkar would loose public sympathy, the government then would be paper government only. Considering all those view points, Third Sarbadhinayak by a proclamation on 6.3.44. directed to start satyagraha against movement of paddy, rice and all kinds of food grains outside in the market place, in interest of people. He himself decided to launch in Satyagraha on the 12 April, '44 in memory of Gandhiji's protest to violate Salt laws at Dandi.¹ He called the youth not to forget the glorious freedom struggle of Tamluk both in way of non-violence in the recent past and in violent activities by Garamdal in Quit India Movement. Accordingly, on the 12th April, '44 Satish Chandra Sahu, with 12 national soldiers of Bidyut Bahini while engaged in picketing to stop movement of rice and paddy at Panchkali Bazar on the market day were arrested. After his arrest Baradakanta Kuity was nominated as Fourth Sarbadhinayak of Tamralipta Jatiya Sarkar on 13.4.44. By this time the Japanese bombard in boarder area of Bengal and at Calcutta more than 12 occasion. Azad Hind Bahini also reached Kohima through the eastern gateway.

Andaman and Nicobar Island was under the possession of Azad Hind Bahini. Gandhiji was released on the 6th May, 1944 on health ground.

In the circumstances, Jatitya Sarkar in point of maintaining law and order had practically nothing to be done as police activities came to the marginal limitation of only arresting the congress leaders engaged in Satyagraha. People were hopeful regarding good harvesting this year. They were prepared to live in peace. Military camps were withdrawn. There was nothing to regret nor had any scope to dissent regarding new admissibility of programme before Jatiya Sarkar excepting to leaning to 18 constructive programme of the past. Considering the new situation, experienced far-sighted loyal Gandian leader the Fourth, Sarbadhinayak, without loosing time, called an urgent conference inviting all congress workers, members of cabinet, Adhinayaks, G.O.C.s National soldiers of Bidyut Bahini and Bhagini Sena of Tamralipta Jatiya Sarkar Midnapur, on 7th May, 1944, for final decision for future stepping.

Fourth Sarbadhinayak explained the present problems with reluctance of public sentiment to devote time and energy and co-operation. The situation took a rapid turning point. He also proposed to reconstitute the Tamralipta Congress committee then, as most of the leaders and office bearers were arrested and in jail custody. He also appealed before them, "We the followers of Gandhiji as deciple of congress workers jumped in Quit India Movement abide by his call, in future all of us must be prepared to obey his writ of command as loyal soldiers". He did not forget to remind all in that case "we had two fold risk to shoulder punishment." Firstly, for our non-violent activities possibility of expulsion from the congress organisation as congress worker and secondly, as violent activities and as member of Bidyut Bahini and Bhagini Sena and of Garamdal, specially when in case of the chief of Garamdal and G.O.C.s against whom the death warrent and rewards were declared by the British power might be hanged without any evidence. Because then the sufficient evidence would be to the British administration" for "The expulsion order from congress organisation" in addition to their reserved F.I.R. in the record. Inspite of this feasible future fate, every

one firmly expressed their opinion obeying Gandhiji's writ of order with faithful loyalty." ²

Fourth Sarbadhinayak proposed the name of Kunja Behari Bhakta Das the present Adhinayak of Nandigram Thana Jatiya Sarkar, with special recognition of his credit and exception of functioning as Adhinayak to complete the full tenure of administration since establishment of Jatiya Sarkar on 26th Dec. 1943 till 29th September, 1944, as president and Sushil kumar Dhara, the Home Minister and Chief of Garamdal for his activities as magic spell as Secretary of the Sub-divisional Congress committee of Tamluk. ³

After his release, Gandhiji directed all leaders and congress workers of all parts of country those who were still then remained underground and engaged in freedom struggle, violently or non-violently, they should be devoted to constructive work among the people at once and engage themselves as they did in the past. He also declared his desire in the leading News Papers on 29th July and again on the 6th. Aug, 1944 in this regard.

With due respect on Gandhiji's direction the last and Fourth Sarbadhinayak in consultaion with all concerned proclaimed that Tamralipta Jatiya Sarkar would be extinguished with all branches alongwith sister concern Thana Jatiya Sarkar in four police stations namely Nandigram, Satahata, Mahisadal and Tamluk on and from the 8th day of Aug, 1944. All sa'niks, workers who would be willing might join with him in Satyagraha procession at Tamluk on the 9th August on the historical day of Quit India Movement. ⁴

One most important and significant feature to be mentioned here that Rs. 10,000 reward was declared for arresting S.K. Dhara, the C-in-C and Garamdal Chief and Rs. 500/- for arresting each G.O.C.s of Thana Jatiya Sarkar. Against all of them there were several murder charges along with offences under Sec. C.R.P.C and F.I.R by the British administration. ⁵

He was conscious of his incumbent duty to complete the account of income and expenditure account of Tamralipta Jatiya Sarkar in the centre and also four Thana Jatiya Sarkars for the entire period of tenure from the date Jatiya Sarkar was established, namely from 17th December, 1942 to the date

of Wind-up on the 8th day of August, 1944, so that none could have any opportunity to doubt or allege in financial matter as this was within the knowledge of the workers about the expenditure of more than one and a half lacks of rupees spent in relief works in flood affected areas and to maintain law and order of Jatiya Sarkar. He also considered his second important duty for preservation of documents in connection with activities as well as of the activities of Jatiya Sarkar in safe custody (specially Judicial Deptt. and Garamdal) for the protection of the national soldiers and their family members might not be oppressed by the British administration in future. Third important duty was the careful compilation of completed "BIPLABI" the mouth piece of Tamralipta Jatiya Sarkar alongwith all bulletins, proclamations, pamphlets issued by the Thana Jatiya Sarkar, documents of all departments specially of Relief, Judicial Land Registration, records should be handed over to a most responsible person as important National Deeds for future generation. Sushil Kumar Dhara as secretary of the Sub-divisional Congress committee was entrusted with all these responsible duties. He was advised to complete the whole performance by the 31st August, 1944.

Sushil Kumar performed his entrusted duties as Home Minister, C-in-C of National Militia and planner, executer of Garamdal (action squad) of Tamralipta Jatiya Sarkar as a loyal commandar so also he performed his present obligations as directed by the last Sarbadhinayak. Accordingly, the memorable, sportive as well as thrilling chapters of Tamralipta Jatiya Sarkar was ended.⁶

-
1. Nandigrane Swadhinata Sangram by B. Bhakta, P. 238, 239.
 2. From the diary of Lt. Kunja Behari Bhaktadas, Veteran Gandhian leader and Adhinayak of Nandigram Thana Jatiya Sarkar dated 9th May 1994
 3. Ibid. 10 May '44 of Bhaktadas.
 4. Ibid. 9 August '44 of Bhaktadas.
 5. Ibid. Prabaha by S.K. Dutta P- 158.
 6. Biplabi Issue No. 83, August 27, '44

CHAPTER—VII

GANDHIJI AT MAHISADAL

HIS REFLECTION ON VIOLENT ACTIVITIES

BY TAMRALIPTA JATIYA SARKAR

Gandhiji was made responsible and blamed for violence in the Quit India, Movement, by the British. They believed, his last advice to every man and woman to take the "VOW" "KARENGE YEA MARENGE" was the inspiration behind the violent activities. For this the, British blamed him for all violent activities in India.

Here at Tamluk, in the rebel district of Midnapur, the veteran congress workers directly participated in violent activities even like murdering by establishing Tamralipta Jatiya Sarkar and Action Squad.

Gandhiji was pressurized by two arms like that of a "Forcep" to visit Tamluk for enquiry and for verification. In one side, Lord R. J. Kassie the Governor of Bengal invited him on behalf of British Government and on the other, some of the renowned congress leaders (although few in number) jointly with families of culprit-informers, traitors, and brute-passionate personal engaged in raping, had been awarded capital punishment, represented to Gandhiji in writing. Both the sources demanded his personal presence to verify in details, the horrible violence like murder of innocent people by the activist congress workers. They also added in their appeal for taking suitable action against them. On complaints from the ruler and some of the people ruled, Gandhiji decided to come to Mahisadal in Tamluk Sub-division.

It needs mentioning that a few congress workers among the complainants signatories who were quite ignorant and in the dark about the fact of gravity of the situation due to mass scale looting, destruction of temporary nominal shelter after flood, specially about mass raping of 49 ladies and women by

the soldiers and police in a day in presence of cordoned members of family like sons, daughters and husbands. They either failed to feel the ravage scene of oppression or set aside their feelings of sympathy and consideration as they had been arrested and put in the jail custody before 16th October, 1942 and also due to their lack of sentiment so to say sense of humanity to follow the crying need of "Garamdal" Action Squad of Tamralipta Jatiya Sarkar.

Fortunately, Satish Chandra Samanta, the First Sarbadhinayak and Nilmoni Hazra, Kunja Behari Bhaktadas, Adhinayaks of Thana Jatiya Sarkar, and other followers of andhian congress workers like Rajanikanta Pramanik, Shyamadas Bhattacharji were released from jail before Gandhiji's arrival and visit to Mahisadal. Satish Chandra Samanta, the First Sarbadhinayak was selected as President of the Reception committee on the occasion of Gandhiji's memorable stepping to Mahisadal on the 25th December, 1945.

Gandhiji reached at Mahisadal on 25th December, and stayed there for 5 days. On the first day prayer meeting, he expressed his sympathy for the oppressed during Quit India Movement and said, "I have come here to be closely associated with the oppressed people and acquainted with them to share misery and distress during flood and the intolerable sufferings due to police oppression." During his stay, some mothers and wives who lost their sons and husbands by capital punishment, awarded by the Action Squad of Jatiya Sarkar met with Gandhiji with tearful eyes and some reported their grievances in details. Gandhiji patiently heard them and became startled and was anguished. Gandhiji called on Satish Chandra Samanta as under his leadership the Quit India Movement here at Tamluk was started and as he was the First Sarbadhinayak. Gandhiji asked him to apprise him about all kinds of violent activities during the tenure of Jatiya Sarkar. Satish Chandra, lifelong was a devoted follower of Gandhiji admitted unhasitatingly about violent activities including punishment of transportation of life to the informers, traitors. He also narrated police atrocities in details by the criminals. On hearing detailed police atrocities Gandhiji was astonished and startled again and remained silent for some moments. Satish Chandra most humbly begged for his kind permission to state under what

circumstances, why and when they were forced to adopt violence. Satish Chandra narrated the repression with his agony and painful feelings with eyes full of tears about mass scale looting, snatching of relief doles, setting fire of the shelters of flood-stricken people, and mass raping of 49 raped by 2/3 passionate beasts on one lady one after another, women on 9.1.43. At last he surrendered to him with his head bent down and said "All congress workers are ready for any kind of punishment, however really serious and costly that might be for them due to their violence".

The British Government was eagerly awaiting for Gandhiji's decision for their own interest. If Gandhiji admitted and expressed for disciplinary action against them the British might utilise that weapon for hanging the national soldiers who were already in their custody specially the soldiers of Garamdal.

Next day Gandhiji deputed Dr. Sushila Nayer and Ava Gandhi to meet some of the women who were victimized by the military and police on 9.1.43. Dr. Nayer and Ava Gandhi went to meet the oppressed women personally and spoke with them freely. They collected information from the victimized widow, other women over 50 years of age, married, unmarried and even the expected mothers among the oppressed, and reported to Gandhiji.

Dr. Nayer and Ava Gandhi were so moved that they could not restrain themselves but to shed tears. Both of them unveiled the harripilation brutal repression by the passionate soldiers. All congress leaders and members of Jatiya Sarkar apprehended about punishment and they were prepared for all odds. They were even ready to embrace hanging ropes by the British administration as reward.

On the last day of Gandhiji's prayer meeting, Satish Chandra was on the alter under the feet of Gandhiji with his head bend down for his verdict. After prayer, Satish Chandra benignly submitted to him, "Bapuji, you heard the report of verification of complaints of violence as well as inhuman oppression of soldiers and police of British administration. Now we all are awaiting your final verdict". Gandhiji declared in the public meeting after prayer "Where so much powerful British power with their strong and capable machinery failed to record

any proof of evidence of violent activities, I am not such a fool to comment any thing which may support and strengthen the British to utilise as evidence against them to award punishment to them". "Then he placed his hand on the shoulder of Satish Chandra and said "Be friendly with them". He also openly declared in his verdict, "What the British acted here, I do not know, what I did then in that situation. What you did then was brave and glorious too. But I must say that you had been deviated from the path of non-violence".¹

With the luminous verdict by the father of the nation in respect of revolutionary activities of Tamluk by the people and under Tamralipta Jatiya Sarkar administration were not only unique but also brave and glorious. This will inspire the future generation as an amulate to guard against any national evil.

District of Midnapur established as a strong base for non-violent struggle for independence in the past, now they must boast for also violent measure adopted by the Tamralipta Jatiya Sarkar to maintain Law and Order by the Garamdal. People of Midnapur had the proud privilege to run a national parallel Government for a period of more than 21 months as a part of "MAHA BHARATIYA JUKTARASTRA" a Sovereign symbolic Independent National Government justly in interest of the people.

1. Bangler Haldighat Tamluk by Gopinandan Goswami, the G.O.C. of Mahisadal Thana Jatiya Sarkar P. 60.
Published in the Amrita Bazar Patrika and The Ananda Bazar Patrika (in Bengali) on 26th Dec. 1945.
Gandimela Smarak Grantha — "Mahisadale Gandiji" P. 1-11 by G. Goswami published in 1981.

CHAPTER—VIII

CONCLUSION

To conclude, I humbly refer to my endeavour discussed in the preceding Chapters that the key-role of success in Quit India Movement, the final struggle for Indian Independence by Tamralipta Jatiya Sarkar and the administrative organs as Bidyut Bahini and Bhagini sena, joint venture with Garamdal activities acted behind as magic spell and being honoured and recognised as a surprise in Indian History. In this district of Midnapur with 6 sub-divisions comprising a vast area how Tamralipta Jatiya Sarkar had the proud privilege only with small area in 4 police stations occupied such precious positions in pages of History.

To answer this secret theme the "Estimation of Garamdal recorded for appreciation :

Estimation of Garamdal of Tamralipta Jatiya Sarkar in Midnapur

In the past, Indian freedom struggle participants generally belonged to the middle class families and more or less under the leadership of educated persons. But in this movement, soldiers of Bidyut Bahini and Garamdal came from common families with education below present time class X standard. They mostly within age group in between 18 to 25 and among them 80% were school students. Even Sarbadhinayak, Adhinayak, ministers and G.O.C.s did not cross academy bar of graduation.

Women and ladies did not remain docile. They actively participated (married and unmarried) both in violent and non-violent activities of Jatiya Sarkar and in "Action Squad".

Jatiya Sarkar was established by the leadership of the sons of the soil of Tamluk exclusively with their own man power and with economic strength and conducted a parallel government of the people, by the people and for the people.

Inspite of severe torture by the British soldiers as rape and ravage, those oppressed women were recognised with respect in the society. In future, in their personal life they were in peace and happiness and honoured as patriotic mothers.

All members of Action Squad were so disciplined and organised with strong patriotic brave sentiment that from none of them after arrest, police could have any fundamental secret information inspite of inhuman oppression and torture.

Garamdal acted as compass guided the Jatiya Sarkar in right direction to reach the goal.

All Thana Jatiya Sarkars were tagged strongly in a common thread of union. Arrest of Tripati brothers, to keep them in national jail custody of different police stations and at last for their shifting to their residence were the unique examples to that effect.

Action Squad of Garamdal awarded capital punishment to more than 100 culprits, but the British with 200 years varied extended network failed to produce or adduce a single evidence against any congress workers or any national soldiers.

Tamralipta Jatiya Sarkar was established by the congress leaders of Tamruk. No leadership nor any finance came outside for running the administration. People and their co-operation was more than assets for success.

Leaders of Jatiya Sarkar and workers in all branches even the soldiers of Garamdal proved themselves as loyal soldiers when the supreme commander Gandhiji asked them to court arrest. Bravely they came out from underground, incognito, although they were conscious about their fate to be hanged for their violent activities by the British administration.

It was an admitted fact of consideration that Jatiya Sarkar worked for about 2 years when people with peaceful co-existence with the national government, inspite of severe oppression by the police and military was the resultant success of Garamdal, though they were deviated from the path of non-violence.

Gandhiji visited Mahisadal on the 25th December, 1945 on invitation by Lord R.J. Kasai. Governor of Bengal for

enquiry on violent activities by the Congress workers. After enquiry, Gandhiji's historical verdict — "What the British acted here, I do not know, what I did then. What you did was brave and glorious. But I must say that you have been deviated from the path of non-violence." He also remarked in Hindi. "Where so much powerful British power with their strong and capable machinery failed to record any proof of evidence of violent acts, I am not such a fool to speak anything which may support and strengthen the British to utilize as evidence to award punishment to them."

It was most significant that "Garamdal" did not take any action against any European as extremist in Midnapur did in 1931–33, on consideration that they were duty bound to British imperialistic machinery. If any action being taken today, tomorrow another one would be posted. To stop activities of spies and traitors, Garamdal took action on them only with the help of people's support to maintain law and order. It was finally established that Garamdal was the means and not the end.

Tested followers of Gandhiji and members of "Garamdal" did neither shun nor left his leadership. They courted arrest as loyal regiments, obeyed supreme commander, fully aware that the gallows of hanging rope was ready for them all, with award for their heads. This was firmly established in the seminar and accepted in the lecture hall by highly educated advanced historians, scholars, and doctorates in Indian Institute of Advanced Study, Shimla. (vide letter 499, 25 Dec., 1998 from the Director on the chair — Appendix (iii))

Lastly, in favour of formation of "Garamdal" by the veteran Gandhian activists "Tamralipta National Government" (regarding a disputed question— Violence to soldier the full responsibility of violent activities of Quit India Movement — I refer to Gandhiji's letter to Linlithgo in his reply on 29, January 1943 — as "you throw in my face the facts of murder by persons reported to be Congressmen—I see, the murders as clearly, I hope as you do. My answer is that as the Government has goaded the people to the point of murder they started lionize violence already referred to us.

(Ref. : *Quit India Movement (in Bengali)* P. 2–4 by Ashit Kumar Roy)

APPENDICES

Appendix (i)

INDIAN INSTITUTE OF ADVANCED STUDY

RASHTRAPATI NIVAS, SHIMLA 171005 PHONE : Office : 230998

Resi : 231275 Fax : (0177) 231389, 230995

MRINAL MIRI

DIRECTOR

E. Mail : Mrinal-iias@hotmail.com.

No. PS/D/VS/1998/ 425

3 Nov 1998

SPEED POST

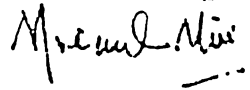
Dear Mr. Bhakta,

As you might know, this Institute has a multidisciplinary research project on Gandhi. Dr. Rakesh Batabyal, one of our Fellows working in the project, has suggested that it would be extremely useful for us to listen to you talk about your understanding of Mahatma Gandhi in the light of your active involvement in the Quit India Movement. I would be extremely grateful, therefore, if you could visit us for a week from 17 November 1998 and give a seminar at the Institute. You will be our Visiting Scholar during the week, and we shall cover your travel expenses (upto AC II class train fare) and provide you with free hospitality.

I look forward to hearing from you.

With warm regards and best wishes,

Yours sincerely,



(Mrinal Miri)

Mr. Banga Bhushan Bhakta

C/o. Mr. Phillippe Falisse

Belgium Embassy

Shanti Path

New Delhi 110021

Guest House / Camp Office : C-499, DEFENCE COLONY (CHAKRAVARTY VITHI),
NEW DELHI 110024 - TELEFAX : 4615200

*Appendix (ii)***What Gandhi said and we did : A leaf from history****—Banga Bhusan Bhakta**

To me people of Midnapore district I have made myself acquainted with your condition to the extent it was possible without a local visit, I tender my congratulations for your courage and patience with which you have bore your sufferings. Earthly possessions are no compensation for loss of liberty. It is a matter of joy that you have preferred deprivation of those to that of your liberty. I hope you will not neglect the duty of manufacturing salt.

M.K. Gandhi, Allahabad, 2.2.1931

This was Gandhiji's reaction as well as response to the atrocities committed on the people of Midnapore on the one hand and their valiant efforts to suffer those atrocities through the non-violent methods. It was here in Midnapore that since 1921 through the violation of salt laws, no tax campaign, boycott and non-cooperation with the colonial authorities had expressed their faith in the doctrine of non-violence that Gandhi propagated. Starting from the organized opposition under the leadership of Birendranath Sasmal, to the imposition of taxes seven times higher than the normal, till the establishment of the parallel Government during the Quit Indian Movement, Midnapore was one of the epicenter of the Gandhian non-violent movement for freedom from the colonial rule. In the words of Jawaharlal Nehru,

"Among many places which have provided martyrs for the cause of Indian Freedom Midnapore district occupies an honourable position. It was a feeling that special mention be made of it in the resolution of remembrance passed on the anniversary of Independence day. I should like to tender my respectful congratulation to the brave men and

women of the district. We can never forget the shining examples of heroism and sacrifice which specially Indian women there given and we cannot forget what has happened in Allahabad district.

(Jawaharlal Nehru, 22. 1931)

However the same practitioners of Non Violent movement turned against the British authorities and their Indian collaborators in a violent way in the winter of 1942. What went wrong? Did they shun believing in Gandhi or they left believing in his leadership? I will try to dilate on the course of history of the Quite India Movement in the area and try to think with what went wrong and why.

Midnapur was the centre of a mass upheaval after the Congress leadership was arrested on the night and the early morning of the 9 August 1942. The quit India movement began. From October the police with the active assistance of the Military began to raid village after village, set fire on houses and Congress offices and arrest a large number of innocent people in mass scale. On October 16 the whole of the district was devastated by a deadly typhoon with cyclone. All paddy fields were submerged under water. On the other hand the Sub Divisional Officer of Tamluk promulgated 144 in the area and prohibited entry of any non official organisation into the flooded area and confiscated all relief materials.

At this juncture the Japanese advance made the situation more acute. The broadcast from Berlin had also convinced people that even the army of Subhas Bose was advancing along with the Jap army and would join the struggle for independence. It was at this juncture that the Tamralipta Jatiya Sarkar was established and styled as Maha Bharatiya Jukta Rashtra a part of one Sovereign "Indian Federal Government with the end in view. The head of the organs of the Jatiya Sarkar were all the seasoned Gandhian leaders of the area who had been active since 1921.

Suddenly on 9.1.1943 at dawn a large number of military and local police surrounded four contiguous villages and then subjected the entire population to cruel atrocities. 49 women, of the age group ranging from 16 to 52 were raped. As a consequence, the Sarbadhinayak at the centre of the Parallel

government decided to constitute a Garamdal (Action Squad) to protect the women and innocent population. In addition, they prepared the list of traitors and informers who had and who had been helping the Military and the police and the people shortlisted were given punishment by the Squad, as there were no alternative but to change the nature of protection even by the veteran Gandhian leaders.

Gandhiji, in his visit to Bengal in 1945, met the Governor, Richard Cassey, who told him about the violence committed by his followers in the Jatiya Sarkar etc. Gandhiji came to Mahisadal on 25 December 1945 with Abha Gandhi and Dr. Sushila Nayar and others. Fortunately Satish Samanta, the Sarbadhinayak was just then released from Jail. Gandhiji asked him about the allegation of violence and the Sarbadhinayak admitted all allegations as true but humbly submitted the circumstances of their deviation from the path of non-violence. Gandhiji then deputed Ava Gandhi and Dr. Sushila Nayar to meet and speak to those ladies who were victims of the brutalities committed on 9.1.43 and reported to Gandhiji.

After examining and verifying the statements Gandhiji declared, in the prayer meeting on 29 December 1945, the last day of his stay at Midnapore —

"What the British acted here, I do not know, what I did then in that situation. What you did was brave and glorious too. But I must say that you had been deviated from the path of non-violence."

Concluding the question on the deviation from the path of non-violence, my benign submission is that the very fact that all members of Jatiya Sarkar and national Militia, the price of whose head was fixed by the colonial authorities from Rs. 5000 to Rs. 10000, courted arrest as soon as Gandhi's call to stop all secret violent activities came on 29 July and 6 August 1944, goes to show that inside the apparent show of violence, the submission to Gandhi's call of non-violence was a stable faith. The deviations from it were due to the reasons created by the colonial authorities by making the situation unbearable for a mass of people.

*Appendix (iii)***INDIAN INSTITUTE OF ADVANCED STUDY**

RASHTRAPATI NIVAS, SHIMLA 171005 PHONE : Office : 230998

Resi : 231275 Fax : (0177) 231389, 230995

MRINAL MIRI

DIRECTOR

E. Mail : Mrinal-iianchotmail.com.

No. PS/D/VS/1998/ 499

25 DEC 1998

Dear Professor Bhakta,

Thank you very much for your letter of 30 November 1998 and my profound apologies for the delay in responding to it. I have returned to Shimla after a long absence and this explains the delay.

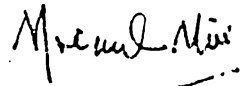
We would certainly have liked to consider your manuscript for publication. But, unfortunately, our rules are such that is not possible for us to publish anything, the work for which was not done at the Institute. I am sorry about this.

I shall, of course, be delighted to write a foreword for your book.

As I mentioned briefly in my remarks during your lecture, your presentation threw up the possibility of an entirely novel way of looking at the history of our freedom movement. I personally learnt a great deal from your lecture. And, I am sure, all those present in the lecture, thought extremely highly of it.

With warm personal regards and best wishes,

Yours sincerely,



(Mrinal Miri)

Mr. Banga Bhushan Bhakta
C/o. Mr. Phillippe Falisse
Belgium Embassy
Shanti Path
New Delhi 110021

Guest House / Camp Office : C-499, DEFENCE COLONY (CHAKRAVARTY VITHI),
NEW DELHI 110024 - TELEFAX : 4615200

*Appendix (iv)***HARROWING TALES
TAMLUK — MIDNAPUR****Statements of Women Assaulted Criminally**

(a) "I, Sm. Sindhubala Maity, wife of Adhar Chandra Maity, village Chandipur, P.S. Mahishadal— aged 19 years. I have got a child. On 9-1-43 last, about 9-30 A.M. one armed troops caught my husband and took him away, and forcibly committed criminal assault on me. I became senseless...This is the second time I have been criminally assaulted."

(This woman had been assaulted on 27-10-42. After the second assault she died suffering from serious female diseases).

Pregnant Woman Raped

(b) "I, Sm. Khudibala Pandit, wife of Haripada Pandit, Vill. Chandipur, P.S. Mahishadal— am aged 21. I am the mother of three children. On 9-11-43, at about 9 A.M., a Police Officer - Nalini Raha, came to our house with some troops. My husband was arrested and taken away. The Police entered our house at his instance, two soldiers tied my mouth with a piece of cloth and threatened me that if I shouted I would be shot. Then the two soldiers forcibly committed rape on me successively. I became unconscious. On regaining consciousness, I found that my husband had returned with bleeding injuries."

(This woman was pregnant at the time of the criminal assault.)

Soldiers Commit Rape

(c) "I, Sm. Subasini Das, wife of Manmatha Nath Das. Vill. Chandipur, P.S. Mahishadal...am childless. I am aged 20. On 9-1-43, a Police Officer — Nalini Raha, came to our house with a band of troops. They caught my husband and sent him away. At the instance of Nalini Raha two soldiers tied my mouth with a

piece of cloth and threatened me that they would shoot me if I cried. Thus the two soldiers forcibly committed rape on me...I became senseless out of a sense of shame and contempt...I expect you will vindicate my honour."

(This woman received her normal diet only three days ago after suffering from Cholera.)

Victim Unconscious

(d) "I, Sm. Basantabala Maparu, wife of Girish Chandra Maparu, Vill. Dihi-Masuria, P.S. Mahishadal...am aged 25., I am the mother of one child. On 9-1-43 the O.C. (Bara Daraga of Mahishadal) appeared with a band of soldiers. They caught my husband and sent him to a distance. At the instance of the O.C. three soldiers entered our house and approached me. They caught me and tied my mouth with a piece of cloth. The three soldiers forcibly committed rape on me. I became senseless...On regaining consciousness I felt a bitter sense of shame and again fell unconscious."

(e) "I, Sm. Snehabala Beoa, widow of late Sushil Mukhopadhyaya, Vill. Chandipur, P.S. Mahishadal, am aged 28. I have four sons. On 9-1-43 a Police Officer — Nalini Raha, came to my house with some soldiers. Some of them caught my eldest son and sent him away. At the instance of Nalini Raha the soldiers caught me inside my room. The soldiers tied a piece of cloth round my face and forcibly committed rape on me successively. I became unconscious. On regaining consciousness, I found my son had returned with bleeding injuries."

Assaulted & Raped

(f) "I Sm. Raimani paria, wife of Bhuvan Paria, Vill, Masuria, P.S. Mahishadal...am aged 30. I have one son. On 9-1-43 at about 11-30 A.M., a Police Officer — Nalini Raha, came to my house with some soldiers. They caught my husband. I was running away towards a nearby bamboo bush. Two soldiers caught me and carried me to my house. As I was crying, they tied a piece of cloth round my face and striking me with the butt-end of a gun, felled me on the ground and forcibly committed rape on me one after another."

Appendix (v)

(True copy)

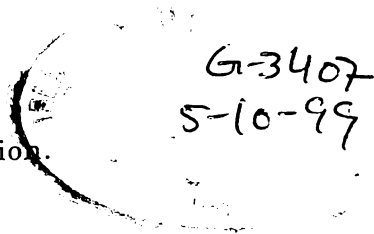
SEAL

Extract of the minutes of the Managing Committee of Kalyanchak Gourmohan Institution held on Sunday the 10th January, 1943.

- No. 2. Placed the applications for leave submitted by the Headmaster Sj. Sripati Charan Boyal before the Committee for consideration. Resolved that as the Headmaster is suspected by the Govt. authorities of having being taken part in the present political activities his services may be dispensed with and that all his dues upto date may be cleared.

Sd/- S. K. Guha
President
10.1.43

Attested :
Sd/- Illegible
Headmaster
Kalyanchak Gourmohan Institution.
19.7.73.



SRI BANGA BHUSAN BHAKTA

Sri Banga Bhusan Bhakta belongs to a family of freedom fighter from 1922, both his father late Sri Kunja Bihari Bhaktadas and his mother Late Srimati Jabakusum took active part in the freedom struggle.

Sri B. B. Bhakta was born in 1920 in Patna, a village of the Tamluk subdivision in the district of Midnapur.

Between 1930 and 1944, young Banga Bhusan saw his house and belongings set on fire three times by the British. Victim of the "Three Miles Limitations Education Ordinance of 1930", he was deprived of education for 2 years. In 1940, he

was a College student, the "Removal of the Hall-well led by Subh" as Chandra Bose. Later on, in 1942, he joined himself to the "Quit India Movement", to take his B.A. Examination.

On 6, January 1943, Sri B. B. Bhakta was appointed as a member of the Bidyut Bahini (National Militia) as a member of the "Garam" (violent Action Squad) of the "Sarkar, Nandigram (a Parallel Government) who announced a reward of Rs. 500/- for his head, Sri B. B. Bhakta carried on his patriotic activities as an absconder.

Later Sri B. B. Bhakta graduated himself and completed his Master Degree in 1947. He was professor in Mahisadal Raj College, Midnapur. He is the author of "Nandigramesh Swadhinata Sangram", a help book of 5th paper of History (Honours) in the Vidyasagar University of Midnapur.

Sri Banga Bhusan Bhakta is associated with several Social, Economic, Cultural and Educational organisations.

It requires special mentioning that on the eve of celebration of First Republican Day on 26th January, 1950, on the 25th January at dead of night their house was set on fire, all entrances being bolted from outside by Anti Political subversive activists. Fortunately, all family members were saved by the help of local people. This was the last humble dedication, considered as reward for last three generations' sacrifice for Indian Freedom Struggle.