

CHAPTER NINE

UNABATED FURY

(1931-1942)

While the country was getting ready for a mass movement under Mahatmaji the revolutionary activity had been reaching a new peak. Fighters, particularly in the north, became very active and successful attacks on targets continued unabated.

There was a serious loss of life in both the camps. Repressive Ordinances and legislations failed to produce any appreciable result. The murder of three successive European Magistrates in Midnapore and the Raid on the Armoury and other essential installations of the Government in Chittagong climaxed the efforts of the brave sons of India during this period.

Suppressed Grudge

(1931)

The Punjab incidents had weighed heavily on his mind and SUJJAN SINGH of Valtaha, Lahore district, joined the training battalion of the Punjab Regiment in 1930, with the express object of murdering a British Officer. He waited for a suitable opportunity for three months which refused to appear.

On January 20, 1931, before the trying Magistrate Sujjan said that he started from his village to kill the Colonel of the Lahore Cantonment. He was told that the bungalow of Capt. Curtis at Moghalpura was the residence of the wanted Military Officer and he at once made up his mind to go straight into the bungalow and kill him.

He found out the house and entered it in the afternoon of January 13, 1931, and inflicted several blows with a Kirpan on Mrs. Curtis and her two young daughters. Then he made a frantic search for the Colonel who was not at home.

Mrs. Curtis died in the hospital and the two children were somehow saved.

Sujjan was charged with the murder of Mrs. Curtis in cold blood and inflicting severe injuries on her children. He was sentenced to death on February 7, 1931, which he received with utmost nonchalance. In reply to a question, Sujjan said that he struck the children because Indian children had been mercilessly murdered in Jallianwala Bagh and Peshawar.

Sujjan paid the highest penalty in the Lahore Central Jail on April 8, 1931. He mounted the scaffold all the time shouting *Bhagat Singh Zindabad*.

Hero of Hundred Fights

(1931)

CHANDRA SEKHAR AZAD was a terror to the two Governments of the United Provinces and Punjab and his name became a by-word with the police for successful attacks on targets by him. He was also credited with incredible power of elusiveness from arrest at occasions when according to the police there was absolutely no chance of escape.

In his younger days he was 'Chandra Sekhar' but added 'Azad' to his name when he left his studies in the Central Hindu High School in the wake of the Non-co-operation Movement.

Chandra Sekhar belonged primarily to Benares, Bhelupura, but he made extensive areas of U.P. and part of Punjab his field of activity in his youth. He served as a connecting link, a guiding star amongst his comrades working in distant parts of the Province.

For his participation in the non-violent Non-co-operation Movement he was sentenced to whipping but he subsequently laid more stress on militant tactics and used the period when the Civil Disobedience Movement swayed the country as an opportunity for preparation of an armed rising at a convenient moment.

He was the leader of the U.P. forces of the *Hindusthan Socialistic Republican Party* and was the Commander-in-Chief of its Army. He was always in the front rank of attack and participated in almost every action of importance always leading his men. In the Kakori, Delhi and Lahore incidents he took an active part; the police investigation disclosed his complicity in each of

these affairs. He escaped the vigilance of police for several years and used to work as a motor-driver or a boatman.

A heavy reward was announced on October 19, 1930, "for the arrest or for information leading to the arrest of persons wanted in connection with the Lahore Conspiracy Case and others who were wanted for an alleged widespread conspiracy which is now under investigation in Punjab."

"Chandra Sekhar Azad *alias* Panditji, *alias* Sitaram, Caste Brahmin, formerly of Baijnathola, P.S. Bhelupura, Benaras" was the description of the "wanted man" announced by the Government.

On the fateful day of February 27, 1931, he was sitting in the Alfred Park in Allahabad with a comrade at about 9-30 in the morning. The watchers there took him to be the suspect and word to the effect was sent to the Kotwali. The policemen who had been guarding the park slowly proceeded towards the prey. When they reached within twenty yards Azad took out his revolver and aimed at the man nearest to him. He was a bit too late. The police who had noticed him long before Azad became cognisant of their presence were thoroughly ready for such a contingency and fired a shot just a fraction of a second before Azad could discharge his pistol. He was hit somewhere in the leg as could be guessed from the difficulty he showed in getting up.

Then began an exchange of shots and Azad seemed to have been struck by a second bullet on the left arm. His companion ran a few paces away and took cover behind a tree. Azad crawled to another shelter provided by a thick tree.

Two policemen crawled near a ditch very close to Azad, who was now almost exposed to their firing. The unequal fight went on for nearly fifteen minutes when a shot severely injured Azad and he was seen falling on his back. At least three policemen were injured, one of whom rather seriously.

Azad's companion, waiting a few yards away from him, tried to leave the shelter and attack the European officer who had been leading the party. Azad shouted out to him, "I am about to die; for God's sake, fly away: Do not wait for me." Most reluctantly he had to accept the command and left the place on a cycle snatched away from a student who had been standing nearby.

The wounded man was seen to raise his pistol to his temple and fire. He met with an instantaneous death. In this condition he was shot by another constable the bullet piercing him in the thigh.

There were two wounds on the lower part of the right leg, one of which fractured the tibia. Another bullet was extracted from the right thigh. The fatal wound appeared to be on the right side of the head and another in the chest.

The body was sent to Rasulabad Ghat for cremation which was performed under a strict police guard.

Thus a blazing meteor illumined the dark firmament of political subjection with its own brilliance during the short duration of its course moving towards total extinction in the limitless womb of eternity leaving a name that would adorn the pages of history.

On February 28, 1931, from the post mortem report it was known that four bullets and a fragment of the fifth had been extracted from the body. ,

First in the Series

(1931)

Accepting an invitation of the Head Master of the local School, James Peddie, the District Magistrate, Midnapore, visited on April 7, 1931, the educational exhibition that had been organised in the Midnapore Collegiate School by the institution authorities.

The District Magistrate had gone on a shooting excursion and returned to town the same evening. When he entered the first room nothing happened and he quietly passed on to the second showing a keen interest in the exhibits.

Just a few seconds after, at 7-30 p.m., two assailants who had been waiting there fired shots from a very close range, not more than three feet from him, from inside the threshold of the northern door. One of the attacking party was a boy in his teens wearing a striped grey shirt.

Altogether seven or eight shots were fired in that small room and a stampede was the result. Nobody was in a mood to

enquire about the august visitor and failed to take notice of his place of final retirement.

When the situation had improved a little, Peddie was seen in an adjacent room standing against the wall. He must have managed to go there through the communicating door after receiving the shots.

It was strange that though three bullets had penetrated his back and two others, one in each arm, Peddie did not lose his consciousness. He was immediately removed to the Midnapore Hospital in a horse-drawn carriage bleeding profusely. Surgeon and nurses were rushed by special train from Calcutta which reached Midnapore at 2-30 a.m. Immediate operation was undertaken and a bullet was extracted from his body. At 10 a.m. on the next day Peddie was operated upon for the second time. The patient gradually sank without showing any marks of improvement and expired at 5-10 in the afternoon.

Death in a Chain

(1931)

Two suspects, one of whom was an absconder from the Delhi Conspiracy Case, came from Lucknow to Patna City and the local police kept watch over them as they answered the description given by the Lucknow police and arrangements were made for their arrest.

For two successive evenings they were seen in the Lower Road, Patna City, and on June 28, 1931, at 9 p.m. they were seen coming on their cycles at Nayatola, P.S. Pirbohore. They were challenged by the police. Ignoring the police party the two men tried desperately to make good their escape. In the confusion one of the suspects threw a bomb injuring Sub-Inspector Ram Narayan Sing who died in the General Hospital. Another constable was seriously injured and was removed to the hospital in a precarious condition.

In the course of the case that was started against the two accused it came to light that a man named Ram Lalit, suspected to be a spy, was murdered at Kankarbagh by the party and a

worker accidentally killed himself while filling a grenade. No details were available.

One of the arrested men was sentenced to transportation for life and the other to seven years' rigorous imprisonment.

Lahore Garden Fight

(1931)

The police had long been in pursuit of two revolutionaries, JAGADISH and his comrade, in connection with the Lahore Conspiracy Cases. After continued watch spread over wide area they were seen on May 3, 1931, going towards the Shalimar Garden, Lahore. The news was hurriedly communicated to different centres and before the suspects had actually entered the park it was almost surrounded by a large number of policemen.

Jagadish and his friend unsuspectingly got into the garden and Jagadish took his seat by the side of an artificial stream and his friend relaxed nearby. The police sent a person in the garb of a lady in *burkha* with a view to keep their prey engaged. The arrival of a 'lady' aroused their suspicion and they got ready for an open encounter. There was a sharp exchange of shots in the course of which, Jagadish was hit in the neck and fell reeling into the stream and died almost immediately. His friend was seriously injured and arrested.

Accident's Toll

(1931)

Two friends CHANNAN SINGH and another had been travelling dangerously in a train from Hoshiarpur with high explosive bombs in their luggage.

They got down at village Adamwahan on May 13, 1931, the purpose of which is not very clear. While sitting by the roadside one of them gave some incautious push to their luggage and a bomb exploded with a loud report resulting in Channan Singh's death within a couple of hours.

His companion tried to escape but was arrested. Explosive materials were found in their respective houses in the course of a search by the police.

Lure of Arms

(1931)

The revolutionary urge finding its outlets in Delhi and Punjab and the trials that followed with mass executions did not fail to make deep impression in the minds of impressionable youths elsewhere in India.

Bombay had its touch and outrages were not slow in making their appearance. A few young men, as one of them stated after the incidents, had been reading literature about Bhagat Singh and his exploits and decided to emulate them, for the purpose of which they required bombs and revolvers.

They were in search of a proper opportunity to translate their idea into action. On the night of July 23, 1931, three friends, YESHWANT SINGH, DEO NARAYAN TEWARI and another noticed at Khandwa that a European gentleman with his luggage and a rifle was alone in a compartment and made up their minds to rob him, and dispose of his articles except the rifle for the purchase of weapons with the sale proceeds.

They boarded the train, the Punjab Mail, and attacked Lt. G. R. Hext, who had been proceeding to Signal School at Poona via Bombay.

It was 4 a.m. when the Mail had been running between Dongergaon and Mandwa, about 300 miles from Bombay. Hext had a dog in his compartment which fiercely barked and awakened Hext from his sleep. He saw two persons, absolute strangers, in his compartment with daggers in hand. As he tried to move he was instantly attacked and rendered unconscious.

Hext had a fellow passenger, a Lieutenant of the 28th Field Brigade, who had been travelling from Lahore to Poona. He found three men in the compartment and grappled with one of the intruders. He held with his hand the blade of the knife with which he was attacked, and it broke leaving the major portion in his hand. He put up a heroic fight with the part of the blade

when he was attacked by another man. He switched on the light and shouted to Hext to pull the communication chain. He found Hext in a serious condition almost on the point of death. Then he pulled the chain himself and the train began to slow down when the assailants jumped off from the running vehicle. The train ultimately stopped at a little distance from the place.

Hext was removed to hospital in a precarious condition where he died on July 24, 1931, in the afternoon.

A precipitate chase followed the escape of the assailants from the train. The news was flashed to all police stations and police officers were ordered to take up the hunt.

One of the pursuers, a Sub-Inspector of Police who was the earliest to receive the message in a nearby police Station at once advanced towards Bhusaval without any clear idea as to the course he should follow but issued instructions to all he met to arrest anybody whose movement might seem suspicious.

At mile 331 the Police Officer came across some gangmen and learnt from them that a man dressed in a black coat and shorts with canvas shoes had been noticed going towards Mandwa about an hour before.

The Sub-Inspector, as he was talking with the informants saw a motor trolley coming towards him carrying the Deputy Chief Engineer, Bombay, and Divisional Engineer, Bhusaval, and another officer out on an inspection tour. He stopped the trolley and got into it. The trolley proceeded to Mandwa and the Police Officer made enquiries of porters and gangmen on the way.

At mile 326 they noticed a man answering the description given by the gangmen walking along the track. Just as the party was about to overtake him, the man suddenly jumped from the line and rushed to the adjoining jungle to the left. All the occupants of the trolley got down and ran in the direction taken by the fugitive but soon lost sight of him.

The pursuing Police Officer approached the nearest police station and could secure services of about fifty men to comb out the forest. The party was divided in batches of five to six and were asked to go into the jungle.

In this tense situation a man was found crossing the line from east to west. Traversing an open space the man was seen

entering a shed, where he was found lying on the ground. At the approach of the people the man tried to run away. He had scarcely gone over a little distance when he was seized by a labourer in the field and handed over to the policemen.

The dress of the arrested man, DEO NARAYAN, was similar to the description given by the Military Officer, Hext's co-passenger, and he had injuries on the left hand as also bruises and cuts on his legs.

Deo Narayan's friend, accomplice YESHWANT SINGH was arrested in Mandwa the day after the outrage. He was taken to the house of an unknown man promising food and shelter. Confidence was betrayed and the police appeared at the door on receipt of secret communication from the host.

Yeshwant and the third accused served as cabin candidates in the Railway and applied for sick leave for some days. They produced the requisite medical certificate and were absent from duty since July 21.

Some correspondence fell into the hands of the police one of which was written by Yeshwant Singh from Damoh on July 3, to Deo Narayan :

"The sun may rise in the west instead of the east, but like a true and sincere Rajput, I must carry out my determination."

The writer also referred to the vow taken by him at Bhusaval, and said, "I do not want to write any more now, otherwise you may lose control over your mind while I am absent."

Deo Narayan in a confessional mood said that it was a revolutionary crime as it was their intention to die the death that Bhagat Singh had faced.

A letter dated July 28, clandestinely sent from Khandwa Jail meant for his father but intercepted by the police, disclosed Yeshwant's mind very clearly and gave an idea of how he looked at death.

Wrote he :

"None can undo what is written in fate. I am suffering in jail for my deeds regarding the Punjab Mail quarrel where two military officers were wounded. I hear one is dead. Now think that only five out of your six sons are living. I have not done a coward's deed. If I am hanged I will willingly accept. It should be a matter of pride to you. All have to die one day. I bravely face it; I am not a coward."

Yeshwant Singh, Deo Narayan Tewari and another were placed on trial on August 10, 1931, at Khandwa.

On September 21, 1931, Yeshwant Singh and Deo Narayan were sentenced to death and the third accused to transportation for life.

Additional Judicial Commissioner heard the appeal on October 28, 1931, and judgment was passed on November 16, 1931, confirming the sentences of all the three accused.

The condemned persons were executed on December 12, 1931, in the Jubbulpore Central Jail. The whole city observed a complete hartal following the execution.

Justice to the Judge

(1931)

A Bengali young man of about 20 years slipped unnoticed to the southern verandah adjoining the Court of the District and Sessions Judge, Alipore, 24-Parganas. He was a lean, thin, respectable looking young man dressed in *dhoti*, shirt and coat.

The District Judge, R. R. Garlick, who was President of the Tribunal which sentenced Dinesh Gupta and Ram Krishna Biswas to death, was engaged in hearing a case at 2 p.m. on July 27, 1931. The young man entered the room through a door leading from the verandah, quietly stepped into the witness box and fired two shots in quick succession at the Judge. The first shot went wide but the second struck Garlick right through his forehead. He was removed to the Presidency General Hospital profusely bleeding, where he died shortly after.

The assailant, was attacked by a plain-clothed C.I.D. Constable with his revolver. He fired a shot which missed and in return he was wounded by a bullet discharged by Garlick's assassin on the shoulder. A Sergeant on duty fired which hit the intruder in the abdomen and the leg. He died instantaneously.

The Judge was dead; so was his assailant. In his pocket was found a small scroll of paper in which was inscribed, "Perish! here is your reward for hanging Dinesh Gupta unjustly. Bimal Gupta." (*"dhanso hao. dinesh guptake abichare phansi deoar puraskar lao; iti bimal gupta."*)

There was frantic effort on the part of the police for establishing the identity of the young man which completely failed. The photograph of the dead man was published in the Police Gazette and displayed in all Police Stations in the District and a heavy reward was announced for information that might lead to the identification.

Long after the event the police came to know through a mere accident from a man who was arrested on suspicion and though he could easily avoid informed the police from a sense of bravado that the boy's name was KANAILAL BHATTACHARYA who hailed from Majilpore, P.S. Jaynagar, 24-Parganas. All attempts to establish connection with any particular revolutionary party did produce no encouraging result but helped the police to throw a large number of young men to prison without trial.

Close to the Lion's Den

(1931)

It was just after dusk when a terrific sound was heard in the vicinity of the Patna City Police Station on July 31, 1931. It transpired that RAM (BABU) had been handling a bomb in Dharamsala Gate Ghat which exploded injuring the man very seriously. The room was also badly damaged.

He was removed to the hospital where he died on August 7, 1931.

Ram Babu was a close associate of Suraj Nath Chaube, sentenced to death on April 18, 1932, both of whom conspired and carried out the murder of S.I. Ram Narayan (Lalit) Singh at Kankarbagh Road (Patna).

According to Plan

(1931)

For some time there had been going on frictions between the Hijli Detention Camp authorities and the prisoners and from the growing sullen attitude of the immediate petty officers it was apprehended that a storm was about to burst.

In the evening there was some altercations and mutual threats exchanged between a sentry and a detenu. There was also an allegation that a detenu had attempted to snatch away the bayonet of a sepoy on duty in the afternoon. At 9 p.m. on September 16, 1931, fifty policemen and two dozen sepoy with lathis and batons, overran the detenu barracks and opened fire inside the rooms without any warning whatsoever. The detenues were taken unawares and began to run helter skelter for a safe place for saving themselves from baton, bayonets and bullets.

Within a short time about 100 shots were fired in the camp as well as in that part of the hospital where some of the sick detenues had been admitted as indoor patients.

Sentries from eight boxes and those posted near about the bathrooms together with those on patrol duty in and outside the compound of the camp opened fire simultaneously. Some of the detenues were in the dining hall taking their meals at the time. At least one prisoner was hit by a bullet at the place.

The convict attendants in confusion and fear put out the lights in the dining hall whereupon firing ceased as none inside could be seen from the sentry posts.

At least twenty detenues were injured, four seriously. Two detenues, **SANTOSH KUMAR MITRA** of Calcutta and **TARAKESWAR SEN** of Goila, Barisal, were killed.

Tarakeswar Sen was looking from the first-floor verandah what had been happening to the fellow prisoners. He was shot on his forehead which killed him instantaneously on the spot.

Santosh Kumar Mitra was standing on the threshold of a room on the ground floor. He fell down dead, two bullets having passed through his abdomen.

Some of the sepoy ran upstairs and assaulted everybody whom they met. It was pandemonium let loose, the poignancy

of the situation being heightened by the gleeful mood of the sepoys who had been shouting: *Hukum mil gaya ! Ramji ki joy ! Shala lok ko maro.*

There was no responsible officer nearby to restrain the sepoys from their orgy of violence on unarmed prisoners living at the mercy of the Government and its myrmidons. The Commandant though living within two minutes' distance from the Camp, actually turned up after nearly an hour of the outrage. His conduct deepened the suspicion in the minds of the public that he had been in the know of things from the very inception of the plan.

The Report of the Committee appointed by the Government to go into the cause of the unhappy incident was published on October 19, 1931. The facts as stated by the Committee were that a sentry on provocation gave the alarm and there was a rush of armed men "through the inner gate" and "under the orders of a Havildar charged and drove some detenus who might be roving about."

The Report continues:

"Shots were fired by the sentries after which there was a half-hearted retaliation by some of the detenus followed by a regular fusillade by the sepoys—indiscriminately firing without any justification—on the main building resulting in the death of two detenus and in infliction of injuries on several others.

"The Committee adds that some of the sepoys with no justification went into the building and assaulted some of the detenus with lathis and bayonets and also fired a few shots there after which they left."

It needs no comment.

Ladies too !

(1931)

Even in the history of the Indian revolutionary movement the murder of C. G. B. Stevens, Magistrate and Collector, Comilla, Tippera, and Political Agent of Tripura State, presents a remarkable departure in the line of outrages committed on Government servants and on their agents. This was the first occasion when two Bengali girls took hands in matters that had so far remained reserved for the rough arms of the males.

Two girls of respectable families, reading in Class VIII of

the Faisunessa Government High School, came at about 10 in the morning in a hackney carriage to the quarters of the District Magistrate on December 14, 1931. They left the vehicle at the gate of the compound and went up to the building to see the Officer. A visiting card containing two names, Ila Sen and Mira Devi, in English, in the hand-writing of one of these girls was sent to Stevens seeking for an interview.

Stevens was at the time in office and talking to the S.D.O. Both the officers came to the door of the office room and met the girls. After a short talk with the visitors relating to the object of their visit, a petition was placed at the hand of the Magistrate which related to swimming by Bengali girls.

With the petition Stevens went back to his seat in the room and made an endorsement on the petition to the effect, "Head Mistress, for favour of suggestion." He came to the girls and verbally asked them to come through the Head Mistress when an arrangement could be made for holding the suggested competition.

One of the girls was on the point of receiving the petition back from the outstretched hand of Stevens when the other girl whipped out a revolver and fired point black at the chest of the Magistrate from a distance of two cubits only.

On being hit in this manner Stevens began to retreat with the object of escaping to the pantry through the dining room. While on the move, a second shot was fired at the Magistrate which went wide. Later, Stevens was found lying prostrate in the pantry life being extinct.

The girls were arrested on the spot by the S.D.O. with the help of the attendants and handed over to the police.

The revolvers that were used by the girls were unlicensed. They were of Belgian make with .320 bore.

Post mortem examination of the deceased revealed one mortal wound by a bullet below the heart and other shots delivered by nervous hands failed to hit the target.

It was ascertained later on in the course of investigation that two or three young men hired the hackney carriage used by the girls and escorted them up to the Criminal Court buildings in the expectation of finding Stevens there.

The young men then left the *gharry* with the girls directing the coachman to proceed to the quarters of the District Magistrate.

The girls were placed on their trial on January 18, 1932, on charges of murder and conspiracy to murder.

On January 27, 1932, judgment was delivered. The accused were not more than sixteen years of age and having regard to the principles which were applied to young or adolescent criminals, the girls, instead of being sent to the gallows, were sentenced to transportation for life.

From the Opposite Pole

(1932)

From the service in the Police Department as a probationary constable, 24-Parganas, SITAL PRASAD PANDEY joined the political undesirables and at once became somebody for whom the Government started a frantic search for arrest.

Sub-Inspector Mazhar Hussain of the Railway Police entrained Sealdah-Delhi Express at Jasidih on information that a man was travelling with an unlicensed revolver. When the train stopped at Jhajha on April 3, 1932, at 6 a.m., a man was pointed out to him as Sital Prasad, the 'wanted' person. The dutiful police officer accompanied by the informer entered the compartment occupied by Sital Prasad and asked him forthwith about his identity and whether he possessed an unlicensed revolver with him.

The answer was in the affirmative. But on the pretext of producing the license he took out a loaded revolver from his pocket and fired four shots in quick succession at the Sub-Inspector and one at the informer. Mazhar Hussain met with an instantaneous death. The informer was seriously injured.

He did not allow much time to elapse to help others in his arrest. He shot himself dead in the presence of the dumb-founded passengers in a crowded train.

Cruel Fate

(1932)

Living in a quiet quarter of Ekrampur village in Dacca, on a particular day KSHITISH CHANDRA MUKHERJEE was found in a precarious condition in a solitary room occupied by him. He had extensive burns all over the body, particularly the nose, caused by the explosion of a bomb in the course of preparation.

Kshitish was admitted in the Mitford Hospital on April 15, 1932, where his left palm and two fingers of the right hand were amputated. The patient did not regain consciousness and succumbed to his injuries on April 17, 1932.

Ill-Conceived Plan

(1931-1932)

Five young men full of revolutionary ardour came near the Charmuguria Post Office on March 14, 1932, and rushed inside the room where the Post Master and the assistant were busy with their work on a table. Two of the intruders were armed with revolvers and another had a dagger in his hand.

Promptly they demanded all the money that the Post Office had at the time and without delay one of them picked up the cash and insured covers that were lying on the table. The raiders came out of the room and followed the person who had already gone outside with a revolver in his hand. Then all of them left the precincts of the Post Office and came out on the road.

When the first shock was over, the postal employees started a chase of the culprits, and were gradually joined by a number of villagers. One man, MANORANJAN BHATTACHARYA, was on the point of being captured when he first stabbed the pursuer and a postman next.

The villagers did not give up the chase and were ultimately able to overpower all the raiders and take them into custody.

The whole of the looted property was recovered from their possession.

Five accused were placed on trial before a Special Tribunal which convicted Manoranjan under Sections 302, 326, 396 I.P.C. and Section 19-F of the Arms Act and sentenced him to death and each of the rest to seven years' rigorous imprisonment.

Manoranjan's appeal was heard by a Special Bench of the High Court on July 4, 1932. It was rejected and the sentence of the lower court was confirmed.

Manoranjan of Idilpur, Faridpur, was executed on August 22, 1932, in the Barisal Jail.

Desperate Bid for Freedom

(1932)

One Head Constable with nine others had been escorting twenty five life convicts repatriated from the Andamans. They were under orders of transfer to the Punjab jails and were travelling by 61 Up train to Lahore on April 22, 1932.

When the train was running between Narwana and Jind, Delhi, the escorts were suddenly attacked by the convicts at about 1 a.m. on April 23, who were overpowered. The convicts stopped the train by pulling the vacuum brake chain and ten of them escaped with four police muskets and a quantity of ammunition belonging to the constables.

The fugitives were confronted by the armed patrol of the Punjab Government Railway Police travelling by the same train but with no effect. There was a sharp exchange of shots between the two parties in which the Head Constable, Amarnath, received a fatal wound and another constable was seriously injured. None could be arrested.

Second in the Series

(1932-1933)

Robert Douglas, who succeeded J. Peddie as the District Magistrate of Midnapore, started his journey with a premonition of danger that came to be literally true. He wrote a letter to his brother, the Principal of the Rajahmundry College, on August 5, 1931: "The relevant fact is that my life is in real and serious danger."

It was not without reasons. He received in the mean time a threatening letter.

He was apprehensive of the assassins' bullet and took special precaution for his safety. But as Magistrate of the District he had to go about on official business besides his duty as the *ex-officio* Chairman of the District Board.

Douglas was presiding over the meeting of the District Board held on April 30, 1932, in the presence of a large number of Members and the business had been proceeding on smoothly till about 5-30 p.m. When the ninth item on the agenda was reached, Douglas was sitting at the top of the table signing papers of the District Board.

Two youths came along the corridor by the western gate. They took their stand one on the right and the other on left side of Douglas at a distance of four yards only. Without losing any time they fired six shots in quick succession of which three hit the Magistrate one each in the arm, chest and abdomen. He was removed to the hospital. The Civil Surgeon and nurses were rushed from Kharagpur and he expired at 9-45 at night. Douglas suffered four entrance and three exit wounds and his death was due to shock and haemorrhage caused by bullets.

The two assailants, one of whom was PRODYOT KUMAR BHATTACHARYA, dashed out through the north door of the meeting towards the main gate and ran across the gardens with the Sub-Divisional Officer of Tamluk chasing him with a revolver in his hand.

Before the murderous assault actually took place, the *British Uchhed Samity* of Midnapore had been issuing successive posters

from time to time. In February 1932, one such was pasted at the thana. It was captioned *Wanted Life for Life*. On the back of such a poster sent to Douglas was written :

“Douglas, we want to know whether by your order or whether you are at all aware of the repressive policy, and of the excessive police measures which have been applied to the volunteers belonging to the Congress within Surulia and other police stations. Before starting our work we feel it necessary to make it clear whether all this is being done by your orders or within your knowledge. After this we shall wait, watch and see whether any such orders are passed by you to put a satisfactory stop to the excessive measures of the police. If not, it will force us in the way to take action against your police and note the severe consequences would befall you sooner or later.”

(Initialled) I. B. P.

After leaving the District Board Office the two assailants ran together over a short distance and at the junction of two roads near ‘Amar Lodge’, they separated, one running towards the north-east and the other towards the south.

Prodyot got inside the southernmost room in a cluster of huts. Two police *orderlies* and two others guarded the exists. The armed police *orderly* of Douglas fired through the doorway frame of the hut which had no leaves. Prodyot found it to be no longer safe and rushed out of the hut and ran northward. Two shots were fired at the fugitive who dashed into a bush of thorns and met with a nasty fall. He was pinned to the ground with consequences that followed.

He was searched in the usual way commensurate with circumstances. In the right side pocket was found a slip of paper containing the words :

“Only a feeble protest against Hijli atrocities. Let Britain take note by the death of these people and let India awake by our sacrifice.”

It might be mentioned that Douglas held an enquiry from September 7 to 21, 1931, into the Hijli shooting affairs in which two detenus lost their lives. Another piece showed the cryptic line, “Our elementary arithmetic”, which was interpreted by the Government as meaning the first act in the line of retaliation.

A six-chambered revolver was seized from him of which five were loaded with live cartridges, only one chamber being found empty. It subsequently transpired that the bullet that killed

Douglas was not fired from the revolver found with the accused Prodyot.

Moreover, a bullet was recovered the next day on the way to 'Amar Lodge' the direction which the other assailant adopted for his escape. It conclusively showed that he had a .380 bore revolver and Douglas must have come by his death from a bullet fired by the person who had been successful in evading arrest.

Prodyot's colleague could not be traced. He was found running up to a distance of 250 yards after which he disappeared from the view of his pursuers. A reward of Rs. 5,000 was announced on May 21, for the arrest of or information leading to his arrest but nothing could be heard of him any longer at least for the purpose of the prosecution. Inhuman torture could extract the name of his associate from Prodyot on May 4, as Sitangsu Bose, which, on enquiry, was found to be fictitious.

Prodyot was placed on trial before a Special Tribunal which commenced its sitting on June 8, 1932. On June 10, the accused was charged under Sec. 302 read with Sec. 120-B, and Sec. 302 read with Sec. 34 I.P.C. for conspiracy to murder and acting in furtherance of common intention to murder. The case was closed on June 22.

The Tribunal delivered its judgment on June 25, 1932, at Midnapore and sentenced the accused to death on the ground that "the murder was deliberate and cold-blooded, the accused had aimed his revolver at Douglas with the intent of murdering him, but his revolver misfired, and there could be no difference in the sentence between the actual assassin and his associate who had also pointed a revolver which misfired."

An appeal was preferred to the High Court which started hearing the case on August 16, 1932. Judgment was delivered on August 22, confirming the sentence of the Tribunal.

Prodyot was found very cheerful during the first interview with his mother on October 7, and he said that there was nothing to complain about. The last interview took place on January 11, 1933, with his permitted relatives.

Inside the Midnapore Central Jail Prodyot was executed on January 12, 1933, at 5 a.m. He gained considerable weight between the beginning of the trial and the day of execution.

Misadventure

(1932)

A mail peon was waylaid on the District Board Road leading to the Steamer Station on May 17, 1932, at Agaria, and was robbed of the bag by a band of young men.

The raiders while crossing the wayside *khal* were noticed by the cultivators on the field. The fugitives were hotly chased in their attempt to escape. One pursuer was armed with a *teta* (a spear-like weapon), and he hurled it at JYOTIRMOY MITRA, one of the raiders.

The *teta* caused a penetrating wound in the abdomen of the victim and he fell to the ground. During the scuffle that followed Jyotirmoy suffered further laceration in his wound and was removed to the Madaripur Charitable Dispensary in a precarious condition. He expired on May 18, 1932. A valuable life was lost in a misadventure.

In the Desert Air

(1932)

A message emanating from Darjeeling, the summer seat of the Bengal Government, and circulated by a News Agency, stated in a cryptic manner, on June 6, 1932, that,

MRINAL KANTI RAY CHOWDHURY, a detenu in Deoli Detention Camp, committed suicide.

There were others also who followed Mrinal Kanti to save themselves from an unknown fate.

Mystery Abounding

(1932)

A bright young Bengali, an M.Sc. of the Calcutta University, got involved in revolutionary politics and was on the run for nearly two years till he was arrested at Taltala Ghat on board the Barisal steamer while going from Talti (Taltola) Ghat, in the Munshigunge Sub-Division on June 6, 1932.

The arrested man, ANIL CHANDRA DAS, was brought to Dacca the same day at 4 p.m. and removed to Kotwali lock-up.

On June 7, 1932, he was placed before the Sadar S.D.O., who remanded him to police custody till June 11, 1932. The mother was allowed to see her son on June 7, and Anil was found both physically and mentally perfectly sound.

Grave apprehension overtook the minds of relations when suddenly the detainee was removed to an unknown destination. There was no definite information about the whereabouts of Anil but news leaked out that he was being kept in the Lalbagh Police Station and everything was not going on well with him.

Anil was brought before the S.D.O. on June 13, where complaints about bad food, maltreatment, even of physical violence on the part of the police were made to the Court. He wore a harried look. The police on the other hand reported that Anil had in the mean time developed signs of insanity of which there was not the least trace in him before his arrest and even thereafter for a few days.

The distracted mother made a prayer for examination and treatment of her son by an independent medical practitioner so long as her son was detained in jail. This request was rejected.

On June 17, the Medical Officer of the Jail reported his condition as 'good'.

At about 3 p.m. on June 17, 1932, the Additional District Magistrate informed the mother that Anil had expired in the jail lock-up. The Magistrate at the request of the bereaved family, granted permission for the presence of an independent medical man at the post mortem examination of the deceased.

The order was forthwith communicated to the jail authorities and the Surgeon of the mother's choice was allowed to proceed on

his mission all right. He reached in time only to be told by the Civil Surgeon that the *post mortem* examination had already been finished and there was nothing further to be done in the matter. The *post mortem* report, though repeatedly asked for, was never given to the family or made known to the public for reasons of the State.

The whole affair was shrouded in mystery and the Civil Surgeon's, or for the matter, the Government's, conduct confirmed the worst doubts that lurked in the mind of Anil's mother which were shared by a large number of his wondering countrymen.

Indiscretion's Toll

(1932-1933)

At the height of the Civil Disobedience Movement, the ladies and even children of Munshigunge had a great share in public demonstrations and violations of sedition laws. It was too much for the Government to tolerate and it appointed Kamakshya Prosad Sen from January 1932, as Special Magistrate to teach a good lesson to the law-breakers, composed predominantly of women.

Kamakshya established his head-quarters in the Tangibari Thana. His duties included, as he thought, dispersing of unlawful assemblies and such assemblies as showed signs of becoming unlawful.

In performing his duties he had on a number of occasions to use force through his lieutenants, the up-holders of law and order, on ladies, irrespective of age, as well as on others. It so happened that Ichhapura, in Serajdighi Thana, became a storm centre of the movement and Kamakshya had to use every means, more often than not, extremely humiliating to the ladies.

The Special Magistrate received recognition for his signal services from the Government. But at the same time he could realise within himself that he had incurred the wrath of young men and it was safe for him to be away from the station, at least for the time being.

He availed himself of three months' leave and left the station.

He came to Dacca to receive his salary and put up with the Sadar Sub-Divisional Officer at Wari for a few days. Kamakshya was occupying a room on the ground floor of the building when the owner was on its first floor.

The room that Sen occupied had two windows; one that was on the east had no gratings. As it was summer, Sen slept with both the windows open.

KALIPADA MUKHERJEE of Vikrampur took upon himself the task of teaching a grim lesson to the Special Magistrate for his misdeeds. He came on June 24, 1932, to Wari and took shelter in a tailor's shop at Patuatoli. Next day, as he reported to the shop assistant, he went to Mitford Hospital to see a patient operated upon for hernia.

He was seen at the shop up to 8 p.m. on June 26, the day previous to the outrage.

He went to the S.D.O.'s quarters on June 27, 1932, and waited till 4 a.m. in the morning. He entered the room occupied by Kamakshya through the window without grating, lifted up the mosquito curtain and shot sleeping Kamakshya at four places and left the place unnoticed. He came back to the shop in the morning took his bath and went again to the Hospital as if to see his friend. On his return he again rested in the said shop.

On hearing repeated sound of gun shots the host, the S.D.O., came running downstairs to find the guest lying dead on the cot.

Kamakshya had one bullet wound on the chin, two wounds on the right chest and one in the stomach. Four empty cartridges were found on the bed and one in the surrounding drain running by the building.

There was a frantic search of the neighbouring places, without any success and no clue of the assassin could be traced. The District Magistrate while exploring every other avenue under the instruction of the police, directed the Post Office to keep an eye over every telegram of a suspicious nature and to inform the police about it at once.

Near about 2 p.m. a man came with a telegram for despatch containing the message, "Kamakshya's operation successful; no anxious" addressed to a medical man of Sarada Medical Hall, Ichhapura. "Sender, Surendra Mohan Chakrabarti, 7 Patuatoli, Dacca."

The police was at once informed and appeared at the post office immediately. The carrier of the telegram was detained and the police on arrival put him under arrest.

Accompanied by the police the man went back to the shop and showed Kalipada waiting there. The suspect was taken into custody and removed to the Kotwali.

It transpired that Kalipada had despatched a telegram earlier to the same man at Ichhapura to the effect: "Mukherjee fractured seriously; operation failure; sending him Calcutta—Mintoo Mukherjee."

During his detention in police custody the accused was alleged to have made the following statement:

"I have murdered Kamakshya Sen for the cause of Motherland by shooting him at Rankin Street in the house of the Sadar Sub-Divisional Officer.

"By scaling the wall I entered into the room through the window where Sen was asleep between 3 and 4 a.m. I am alone responsible for the murder. I am guilty if it is objectionable to love one's Motherland

"I sent the telegram to Suresh Ganguli on 27th as he was the only educated person in the bazar and he would understand its meaning when the fact of the murder will be published in newspapers.

"None showed me the S.D.O.'s house.

"I will not disclose as to who gave me the automatic pistol which I threw into the river.

"I murdered Kamakshya Sen as he oppressed much at Vikrampur in connection with the C. D. Movement, especially on the females. I thought it advisable to remove him for the good of the country. I have neither been tutored to say this, nor do I tell out of fear.

"I make this confession to save innocent persons being harassed by the police for nothing."

Kalipada was placed before a special Judge in Dacca on November 1, 1932. The accused retracted the confession in which he implicated none but himself. On November 4, he was charged with murder, and a sentence of death was passed on November 8. The sentence was confirmed by the High Court on December 9, 1932.

The young man paid the price of his indiscretion on February 16, 1933, when he was hanged in the Dacca Central Jail in the early morning.

His body was delivered to the East Bengal Brahmin Sabha for cremation.

At Long Last

(1932)

A Babbar Akali convict RATAN SINGH, escaped from custody on April 23, 1932, with ten others by attacking their escort in the train near Bhatinda. The Head Constable in charge of the police party was killed on the spot.

The Government declared a reward of Rs. 3,000 for the arrest of Ratan Singh, the leader of the gang. He was found, on July 15, 1932, in the village Roorkee, Hoshiarpur District, in a hut. The police assisted by the villagers surrounded the house in the evening and a regular fight ensued.

Ratan Singh met the police onslaught for more than three hours in the course of which he killed three police constables and one villager.

In the end Ratan Singh was mortally wounded by a police bullet and he escaped arrest in life. Death to him was more honourable than surrender.

Racial Hatred

(1932)

A young Mahomedan of 22 was serving as an *orderly* in the Lady Reading Hospital, Peshawar, with a record of conviction for a short term for picketing in 1932.

While W. J. Coldstream, the Civil Surgeon of the hospital, was coming out of the office on his way to the operation room, on July 22, 1932, the assailant, ABDUL RASHID, attacked him with a dagger causing a deep wound on the right side of his neck.

The victim grappled with Abdul and caught him by the hand, who was able to extricate himself and run towards the gate of the hospital to make good his escape.

Coldstream followed his assailant a few paces, staggered and fell on the ground. He expired shortly afterwards as a result of severe haemorrhage.

During the course of investigation it transpired that before

the incident the assailant was in touch with two members of the *Naujawan Bharat Sabha* who were arrested by the police. For want of sufficient proof of complicity they were discharged.

Abdul faced a sessions trial on July 26, and was sentenced to death on July 28, 1932.

He was executed on September 1, 1932, in the Peshawar Jail.

Plucky Act

(1932)

While returning to his bungalow from the office in the afternoon of July 29, 1932, on a bicycle, E. B. Ellison, the Additional Superintendent of Police, Comilla, heard the sound of a cracker that burst close to his cycle. As soon as he turned to see what had happened, he was shot at in his arm, back and abdomen by a youth from behind. Ellison got down from his cycle, though severely hit, returned the fire at the assailant who, however, escaped.

The injured man struggled hard with life for a week. He was removed to Dacca for treatment but all attempts to save his life failed and he expired at 6-40 p.m. on August 5, 1932.

Terrible Calamity

(1932)

With the rising tempo of revolutionary actions in Bengal, the European Association, the loyalists, both Indian and non-Indian, the Royalists, all began to clamour for Black and Tan and 'third degree' methods for suppression of the armed manifestation of nationalist sentiment. The authorities in turn showed extreme proneness to yield to the pressure of these people which they accepted as the expression of genuine 'public opinion' in Bengal.

The Statesman with its immense circulation and unbounded influence on the Government of the day (and up till today) served as the mouthpiece of the combined anti-revolutionary organisations in Bengal and elsewhere.

It was thought necessary to counteract the propaganda by attacking Watson, the Editor, and holding him as an example to

other newspapers carrying on agitation for strong action on the part of the Government.

Alfred Watson was returning to office after lunch at about 3 p.m. on August 5, 1932, when a Bengali youth, ATUL KUMAR SEN, as it was known later on, taking advantage of the slow motion of the car at the gate suddenly rushed forward, thrust his hand into the car through the front window and fired one shot. The bullet grazed the victim's temple and smashed the glass at the back of the car.

The weapon slipped from the hand of the assailant inside the car as he was overcome by a sense of failure in his attempt. He was pounced upon and secured by the durwan at the gate assisted by a constable who had reached the place at the nick of the moment drawn by the sound of firing.

Watson alighted from the car and directed the arrested boy to be taken inside the compound. Atul struggled hard to extricate his hand from the firm grip of his captors and with great difficulty managed somehow to snatch a moment's opportunity to put something into his mouth.

Before Atul could be carried inside *The Statesman* office he reeled and still firmly held by his captors lost consciousness. On his way to the hospital the young man expired. He hailed from Senhati, Khulna, and was staying at 10, Narkelbagan Lane, Calcutta, at the time. The party to which Atul belonged seemed to be a determined lot and the attempt was repeated on September 28, 1932.

After day's hard work Watson left office at about 6-30 p.m. with his Lady Secretary in his car. Watson's car proceeded along Ochterlony Road, Eden Garden Road and Strand Road and then came on Napier Road.

An open tourer with hood down and three men sitting in the back and one man driving it came up from behind at the point of Clyde Road, near Hastings on the maidan, fired three shots in quick succession into Watson's car from the right side of the window hitting Watson twice on his shoulder.

The driver was asked by Watson to drive quickly but a hackney carriage obstructed its easy passage.

As soon as the road became clear Watson's car turned round to the corner of Clyde Row and advanced about twenty yards

when the assailants came up at a great speed and banged against Watson's car.

Both the cars were interlocked and there was a shower of shots at Watson's car from two assailants who actually leaned towards Watson to be more sure of their target.

A Police Sergeant who had been on duty nearby hearing the sound of firing dashed to the rescue of Watson and fired his revolver at the assailants.

They now discovered that the game was up, disentangled the tourer and moved towards the south at a terrific speed, passing along the St. George's Gate Road and Lower Circular Road. Then it took a turn across the Zecrut Bridge finally reaching Sahapur.

The car had no front lights and sounded the electric horn without break. It ignored the signal of a traffic constable to stop and almost knocked him down. It was chased by the Sergeant for some distance in Watson's car when it disappeared in darkness.

Both Watson and his Secretary were taken to the Presidency General Hospital where his wound was found to be of a minor nature.

The assailants' car was next seen at Majerhat at about 7 p.m. When the car reached Bura Shibtola, there was a serious congestion of two carts and hackney carriage. In the hurry to get away with the least delay, the car dashed against a lamp-post and got seriously damaged. In the abandoned car was found a six-chambered revolver, five live and four empty cartridges. The revolver was fully loaded with four live cartridges.

The four men ran towards the Rai Bahadur Road in the east. One of them escaped towards the south and the remaining three ran on till they reached a local big rice mill where they were seized. Two of the assailants, subsequently identified as MANI LAHIRI and ANIL BHADURY, dropped down dead on the road and the third man escaped in a taxi.

Several arrests were made in connection with the case and in the trial some were sentenced to transportation for life and a few others to long terms of imprisonment.

A Lightning Flash

(1932)

He was one of those who had sacrificed their lives in handling dangerous materials without proper knowledge and experience.

SUDHANGSU SEKHAR NANDI died of wounds caused by explosion of a bomb on October 24, 1932, at Jeypur Hat, Bogra.

Three other young men were seriously injured as a result of the explosion.

Futile Protection

(1932-1934)

The Government had provided full protection furnishing him with a constant guard and a revolver in recognition of signal services as an approver in political cases against his own friends and accomplices, sending some to the gallows, some to the Cellular Jail for life and a host of others to prison for long long years.

Phani Ghose had proved very handy as a prosecution witness in the Lahore Conspiracy Case against Bhagat Singh, Rajguru and Sukhdev, in the Motihari Conspiracy Case, Maulnia Dacoity Case and the Patna Conspiracy Case. He was a member of the *Hindusthan Republican Army* and was aware of secrets of the organisation which were fully utilised by the prosecution.

Phani was also helped with funds to start his own business and he opened a shop in Bettiah where the guard would keep a constant watch for his safety. On the day of occurrence, November 9, 1932, at about 7 p.m. he was sitting in front of a neighbouring shop and talking to his friend Ganesh Prasad Gupta, when he was struck from behind by an assailant with a *bhojali* on the head. Ganesh tried to catch him, when another man similarly armed, struck Ganesh on the head. In spite of it Ganesh did not desist and got two more blows, but he pursued the two men southwards for some distance. A few other shopkeepers joined in the chase.

There were two cycles kept leaning against an electric lamp-post on the municipal road apparently by the assailants before the incident. They ran towards the cycles but found the followers close behind. One of the fugitives said something to his companion ahead who was about to mount one of the two cycles, whereupon both of them turned from the direction of the cycles, ran southwards and disappeared in darkness.

The injured persons were immediately taken to the hospital where Phani died on November 17, and Ganesh on November 20, 1932.

Phani was threatened of dire consequences for his action from time to time. A letter smuggled out of the Hazaribagh Jail by a long-term political convict stated that his life was in imminent danger.

After about five days of the incident, two posters in Hindi, written in red ink, were found pasted on the Municipal Office buildings at Samastipur on November 14, 1932. These were variously worded, viz.: *Long live Revolution. Revenge for the hanging of Bhagat Singh, Rajguru and Sukhdev. I have punished the traitor, with the permission of the party, the All-India Republican Association. Revolution is the true way to freedom; with a cool heart welcome it. Destruction is a dangerous objective on the way. Go ahead with soul force.*

On the luggage-carrier of one of the cycles that were left behind was a bundle of clothes which was handed over to the police.

The bundle contained a dagger, some toilet articles and a *dhoti* bearing a particular *dhobi*-mark in it. A close investigation by the police disclosed that the *dhoti* belonged to a resident of the Darbhanga Medical School Hostel where Baikuntha and his associate stayed on November 4 and 5, 1932.

The names of the accused persons, BAIKUNTHA SUKUL and another were secured by the police from the medical student. Police had previous information that Baikuntha worked in the Hajipur Gandhi Ashram and received his training in the *Hindusthan Seva Dal* at Muzaffarpore. He like Phani was also a member of the *Hindusthan Republican Army*.

On October 19, 1932, about three weeks before his attack on the approver, Baikuntha visited his own house at Jalalpur,

P.S. Lalganj, Muzaffarpore. He usually carried a bundle with him and when he went to take his bath in a nearby tank, it was searched by a Sub-Inspector of Police, who had come there on suspicion and an unlicensed revolver was found concealed in it. Baikuntha from that time onwards had to go underground and as his whereabouts were unknown he was declared a proclaimed offender. His property was seized but without any effect.

After the outrage there was a regular hunt for him. He was able to evade arrest until July 6, 1933, when he was found passing over the Gandak Bridge, Sonapur, with a live coconut bomb in the left breast pocket of his *kurta*. There was a stiff scuffle and Baikuntha fell down on his right side which was seriously hurt. When taken into custody he shouted, *Zindabad ! Bhagat Singh ki jay*. Baikuntha was removed to Chapra Jail and detained there till his trial.

Baikuntha seemed to the police to be a dangerous criminal and his trial in the open court of the Sessions was deemed inadequate for his safe custody. An *Extraordinary Issue* of the Bihar and Orissa Gazette announced on November 24, that the sittings of the court would be held inside the Motihari Jail. The trial before the Sessions Court was opened on December 4, 1933. Judgment was delivered on February 23, 1934, and the accused was sentenced to death for the murder of approver Phani Ghose for avenging the death of Bhagat Singh and others.

An appeal was preferred in the Patna High Court on March 6, which was rejected on April 18, 1934, and the valiant fighter in the cause of freedom was executed on May 14, 1934, in the Gaya Central Jail in the early hours of the morning.

Short-lived Independence

(1932)

A group of Sonthals of Dinajpur conceived the idea of establishing an independent state of their own free from British control.

Headed by two stalwarts, JITU CHOTKA and SAMU, one of whom was styled as 'Gandhi', a few hundred sturdy Sonthals

occupied the Adina Mosque, defied authorities and declared a 'raj' of their own in December 1932.

On receipt of information the District Magistrate, the Superintendent of Police and a large contingent of armed constables rushed to the place to meet the challenge with force on December 14, 1932.

A stiff 'battle' raged for some time. The Sonthals using their traditional weapon, the bow and the arrow, killed one and injured a number of constables. Free firing was resorted to by the police and four Sonthals were killed on the spot. On December 18, a Sonthal hero died in the hospital suffering from perforation of the lungs by a bullet. One other Sonthal similarly hurt and whose haemorrhage could not be stopped, was apprehended to die any moment.

Game with Death

(1933)

Death followed the footsteps of JAGGU RAM, an absconder in Nankana Bomb Outrage Case and a comrade-in-arms of Sajjan Singh, responsible for the death of Muhammad Sadique, S.I. of Hyderabad.

Jaggu Ram came to Lahore on January 28, 1933, and put up at Ranjit Singh Samadh. On February 1, 1933, at about 10 a.m. a terrific explosion rocked the locality. The priest of the institution hastened to the place to explore the reason.

Jaggu came out of the room with unsteady steps, blood streaking down his whole body. He sat on a bench and the kind priest asked him to stand up so that he might examine the nature of the injuries.

Jaggu obeyed and the next moment he fell down and expired.

Change of Venue

(1933)

Chandernagore, which claimed the life of an absconder on September 2, 1930, sacrificed one, its Commissioner of Police, from the bullet of a runaway from the Midnapore Jail.

About half a dozen young men came to Chandernagore at the end of February 1933, and rented an old dilapidated house in Kendu Ghat Gali near the bazar. The inmates seldom moved out of the house during the day and whatever they would do, was kept reserved for such part of night when people would be scarce on the street.

The story reached the police headquarters in due course. At about 5 p.m. on March 9, 1933, M. Quinn, the Commissioner of Police, accompanied by a police force went to the place to search the house. When Quinn had just approached a man seated in front of the house, he rushed indoors apparently to give warning to his comrades inside. Within a minute three young men dressed in *dhoti* and coat dashed out in an attempt to escape. One of them stumbled on a wayside bush and was arrested immediately. The other two ran away at top speed and soon got out of sight.

A young Bengali who was coming from the opposite direction tried to arrest one of the fugitives. He was shot and he fell down profusely bleeding.

Quinn took his cycle on which he came riding to the place and followed the direction to which the young men were most likely to proceed. He noticed two pedestrians trudging their way towards the Grand Trunk Road when he passed by them. When he had advanced about ten yards ahead of the two travellers he dismounted from his cycle to question the men for ascertaining their identity. As soon as he came very close, one of the pedestrians drew out a revolver and fired at from point blank range wounding the Commissioner in his chest, temple and face. A constable that came to his aid was hit by bullets. Quinn was removed to the hospital where he expired next day. His body was flown to France for burial.

The arrested man was identified as an assailant of Watson.

It transpired that of the other two fellows one was DINESH CHANDRA MAJUMDAR who had escaped from the Midnapore Jail on February 7/8, 1932. Dinesh managed to get out of Chander-nagore and took shelter in 136/3-B, Cornwallis Street, Calcutta, with a friend of his.

Acting on information supplied by watchers a large *posse* of constables and officers armed to the teeth reached 136/4-A, Cornwallis Street, Calcutta at 4 a.m. on May 22, 1933. All the neighbouring houses, viz., 136/3-A, 136/3-B and 136/4-B, were cordoned by thick police pickets and a batch reached the top of 136/3-B and another of 136/4-A. On arriving at the top of the former they knocked at the door of the room occupied by the suspects. One Inspector of Police approached a window next to the door. Almost instantly the window was thrust open and a shot was fired from inside the room, the bullet entering the shoulder of the Inspector.

Then followed an exchange of shots, the position being such that the police could fire into the room only at an angle, themselves remaining close to the wall in order to avoid the firing from inside.

In the confusion that prevailed one of the party tried to escape by scaling a thin wooden pillar supporting the verandah and got on the roof of an adjoining house with great dexterity. He was arrested then and there.

The men locked up inside the room was repeatedly asked to surrender. There was no response except occasional firing with bullets that whizzed past the heads of the raiding party.

With the first streak of dawn, the besieged men shouted their willingness to surrender and as a guarantee they were seen placing their revolvers at the foot of the window through which they had been firing. Then they opened the door and quietly surrendered for arrest. The trial of Dinesh Majumdar and his four associates was opened at Alipore on October 5, 1933.

On October 10, 1933, Dinesh Chandra Majumdar was sentenced to death on a charge of attempting to murder a police officer by an escaped convict undergoing sentence of transportation for life. The Judge found no extenuating circumstances to mitigate the severity of the sentence.

An appeal was preferred to the High Court which was rejected on January 15, 1934. Dinesh was executed in the mid-night of June 9, 1934, in the Alipore Central Jail.

Indiscreet Act

(1933-1934)

A mail runner attached to the Itakhola Post Office, Habiganj, was carrying the mail bag to the Railway Station on March 13, 1933, at about 5-30 p.m.

When he had proceeded some distance from the Local Board Office, a man appeared with a bottle in his hand. About a minute after another came from the north, went behind the mail runner and attacked him. The peon fell on the ground when he was beaten up with iron rods. Four men, who had been waiting at a distance, came from the east, picked up the bag and ran away. They had not gone far when drawn by the hue and cry of the eye-witnesses to the occurrence, people collected at the place and gave a hot chase to the raiders. When nearly overcome, a man fired a shot which killed a railway workman.

The chase was continued with greater vigour and ultimately all the six men were secured by the villagers near the distant railway signal. One of the arrested men belonged to Sylhet and all others to Tippera.

They were placed on trial commencing on July 22, 1933, in which ASHIT BHATTACHARYA was condemned to death and three others were awarded transportation for life.

The High Court confirmed the sentence of May 24, 1934, and the plea for a lesser punishment on the score of the tender age of the accused, being 19 years only, went unheeded.

A mercy petition by the mother was rejected by the Governor of Assam on June 26, 1934, and the mere lad in teens was executed on July 2, 1934, in the Sylhet Jail in the midst of elaborate police arrangements against public demonstrations. The prayer for the cremation of the dead body of Ashit by his relatives was rejected.

A Battalion on the March

(1933)

For extorting a treatment in jails and convict settlements different from the common prisoners a regular war had had to be waged by a group of determined political under-trial and convicted prisoners from time to time and not unoften with disastrous results.

There had been a grim fight in the Andamans on various occasions beginning with the first arrival of political convicts, and for small concession prisoners had had to undergo untold sufferings sometimes ending in death.

In the thirties of this century there was a large number of political prisoners drawn from all parts of India particularly Punjab and Bengal. A struggle ensued with the authorities over some small privileges which the prisoners demanded as essential for long stay in the cells and uncongenial surroundings, personal element not excluded.

The only weapon in this fight was denial of food, infliction of tremendous torture on the self. On May 12, 1933, a number of prisoners refused taking their normal food or any form of nutrition until their grievances had been redressed.

One of such prisoners was MAHABIR SINGH who was convicted in one of the several Lahore Conspiracy Cases. Starting on May 12, he was apparently well up to May 16, though feeling somewhat weak. The senior Medical Officer visited him on May 17, and recommended artificial feeding as essential for his life. At 11 a.m. the same day milk and sugar diet was given through nose with the help of a rubber tube.

The patient resisted the entire process with all his might. In about two hours, Mahabir showed distinct signs of shock. Gradually his life ebbed out at about 1 a.m. of May 18, 1933, (a little after midnight of May 17) giving him eternal rest.

It was given out that there was nothing wrong in feeding him against his will but that the patient's resistance to the operation in a weak state of health caused severe strain leading to his collapse and death.

Mahabir was not alone in his journey. His friend MANKRISHNA NAMADAS in the Cellular Jail, a convict from Bengal, followed his example.

He started hunger-strike on May 16. On May 17, artificial feeding was resorted to. On May 19, he was admitted to hospital for lobar pneumonia and expired on May 26, 1933.

There was a third case in the line.

MOHIT MOHAN MAITRA was arrested under the Emergency Powers Ordinance on February 2, 1932, from a house in the Upper Circular Road, in possession of a five-chambered revolver and eleven cartridges without licence.

He was sentenced to five years' transportation under the Indian Arms Act and was sent to the Andamans. Along with his comrades he resorted to hunger-strike on May 12, 1933. He developed signs of lobar pneumonia, an effect of the rubber tube discharging milk to the windpipe instead of to the stomach.

It is evident that this was the case with Mankrishna as well.

Mohit died on May 28, 1933 in the hospital.

A Short Shrift

(1933)

Cases of calculated murder by the police of political suspects were not rare. And in such cases the aggrieved party seldom received any justice at the hands of the authorities.

DHIREN DE of Jamalpur, was found missing from his house for two days and a very diligent search proved to be of no avail. His dead body, riddled with bullets, was discovered on the playground of the Government School early in the morning of August 23, 1933.

From the petition of the distracted father to the authorities an idea can be formed of the heinousness of the crime. It ran thus:

"Apparently the place of occurrence is a lonely corner on the roadside in the outskirts of the town (of Jamalpur) and death seems to have been caused by bullet wounds.

"On a closer examination, however, it will be evident that the horrible

scene could not have been enacted at the spot where the dead body was found, nor was the death caused by revolver shots.

"Besides bullet wounds, marks of injury of a different type were noticed in the abdomen and other parts of the body which might have caused the death. In this connection it would appear remarkable that the clothing of the victim was stainless. These facts give rise to a presumption that perhaps the occurrence took place elsewhere and the assailants shifted the dead body with an intent to evade apprehension and to give the occurrence a colouring of a terrorist outrage."

The father accused the I.B. Sub-Inspector, his armed guard and another bad character of the locality and prayed that "enquiry should be started on proper line and without delay."

The mystery remained unsolved because no attempt was or could be made to unravel it.

One among a Legion

(1933)

Long detention in climate to which an average man was not used undermined the health of a large number of detenus in the Deoli Detention Camp. HARIPADA BAGCHI of Rajshahi was one of the many.

He had been in the Buxa Detention Camp suffering from a number of diseases. For a period his case was diagnosed to be tuberculosis of the lungs.

Instead of releasing the Government transferred him to the Rajputana desert as if to pass the remaining days of his life. He was operated upon for appendicitis in the Victoria Hospital a few days before he developed pneumonia which carried him away on August 22, 1933, relieving the Government of a great headache. His body was handed over to local Congressmen for cremation.

Third in the Series

(1933-1934)

It seemed that the Midnapore young revolutionaries had taken a fancy for the life of European Magistrates of the District.

B. E. J. Burge succeeded R. Douglas as the District Magistrate in May 1932 after the former's assassination. He took charge of the Hijli Camp as Commandant in November 1931. The severe governmental measures adopted for the protection of life and limb of its high-placed Officers and the assurances declared by the Governor of Bengal of the time were expected to put a stop to the depredations of the revolutionaries.

Burge did not move much out of his bungalow. But he was a football enthusiast and would participate in the games himself and organise matches in Midnapore with reputed teams of Calcutta and of other stations. On the other hand it was rumoured that on November 6, 1932, it was he who ordered severe measures to be taken against a no-tax campaign under which the people groaned. Some young boys mostly in their teens were out to avenge the atrocities committed by the Government and also to advance the cause of Independence of India. They, not many, used to meet from time to time and discuss the ways and means at diverse places, very cautiously because of strict police vigilance for two previous murderous attacks on Magistrates, and they decided to bring weapons from Calcutta. MRIGENDRA KUMAR DUTTA, ANATH BANDHU PANJA and another went to Calcutta to learn the use of revolvers from the parent organisation. Mrigen, Anath, NIRMAL JIBAN GHOSH, BROJA KISHORE CHAKRABARTI, RAMKRISHNA RAY brought revolvers from Calcutta to Kharagpur by train and kept them in a boarding house and thence removed to Midnapore on cycles. Weapons were kept with the ladies of cultured families. In the course of a few months they were able to collect five revolvers and a few daggers.

Secret meetings were held in a dilapidated house in Gope Hill surrounded on all sides by jungles, where the conspirators used to have target practice at short intervals.

On two previous occasions, once when Burge presided over

a meeting in connection with flood relief and another when he attended a football match on August 31, strong police guard frustrated all attempts for attack on him.

On September 2, 1933, there was going to be a match between the Town Club of which Burge happened to be the President, and the Mahomedan Sporting Club in the play-ground near the Central Jail. Nirmal Jiban succeeded in securing the information from the Secretary, Town Club, that Burge was due to take part in the game. Nirmal Jiban Ghosh, Braja Kishore Chakrabarti, Anath Bandhu Panja, Mrigen Dutta and another met at the bank of the Panchet tank on September 1, and decided to kill Burge the next day at the commencement of the match.

It was accordingly arranged that at the signal given by Braja Kishore, Anath and Mrigen would shoot Burge with revolvers. One was to stand guard at the Tantigheria Railway Station and Nirmal near the Mission Girl School. Others to occupy strategic points to cover the escape of the assailants.

Nirmal, Anath, Mrigen and another started for the police ground where the match was to be played. Another party went by the way of the Collectorate building to the same destination.

The stage was now set for the football match as well as for the act of violence. High police officials were there to participate in and to witness the game. The Assistant Superintendent of Police was to play and a European Reserve Inspector was to referee the game.

Mrigen and Anath were in the field with the players of the opposite side, the Mahomedan Sporting Club, which had been practising with the ball before the match actually started. There were several players who wore *dhoti* and it was difficult for anybody to discriminate them from the rest.

The police officials had come a little earlier and Burge drove up in his car accompanied by two of his personal body-guards. Leaving his car on the eastern side of the field and body-guards at the touch line, he proceeded towards the centre of the field. Anath and Mrigen, who were kicking the ball from before near the southern goal, closed in on Burge and opened fire at him with a revolver and an automatic pistol from a distance of about two to three yards.

One fired five rounds from the revolver into Burge's back and

the other fired three from his automatic from the front. Burge fell down with six wounds and expired within a few moments.

The A.S.P. who had been standing at a distance of about ten yards, turned round on hearing the shots and immediately darted at Mrigen, one of the assailants. Whereupon the latter pointed his revolver at him, but he succeeded in knocking it downwards and the bullet passed between his legs. In the struggle that ensued, both fell to the ground and at this point, two of the personal guards of the Magistrate rushed up and wounded the assailant who was secured.

Anath, the second assailant, was tackled by the Reserve Inspector and shot dead on the spot.

Mrigen was removed to the Sadar Hospital where he died the next morning, September 3, at 8-30 a.m.

The entire field was cordoned off and some four arrests were made on the spot on suspicion. Hell was let loose and house searches and arrests with extreme ferocity followed the incident at different parts of the town.

After the usual investigation, interrogations and unusual torture for extorting confession, thirteen young boys were placed on trial on January 3, 1934, before a Special Tribunal constituted for the purpose.

The principal accused were Nirmal Jiban Ghosh, a student of the 1st year I.A. Class of the Midnapore College;

Braja Kishore Chakrabarti, who gave up studies in 1932, having read up to 2nd year Class of the Midnapore College; and

Ram Krishna Ray, who read up to the Matric standard of the Hindu School.

The accused were charged with the offence of being parties to a criminal conspiracy, the object of which was to commit the murder of the District Magistrate and other high Government Officials of the District of Midnapore.

Judgment was delivered on February 10, 1934, and Nirmal, Braja and Ram Krishna were sentenced to death. Four others were punished with transportation for life.

The accused appealed before the High Court of which hearing was closed on August 13, 1934.

The High Court rejected the appeal and confirmed the sentence passed by the Tribunal on August 30, 1934.

Braja and Ram Krishna were executed on October 25, and Nirmal on October 26, 1934, in the Midnapore Central Jail in the early hours of dawn.

It is a remarkable feat of the Midnapore young militant nationalists to kill three District Magistrates viz., Peddie on April 7, 1931, Douglas on April 30, 1932, and Burge on September 2, 1933, and send a thrill of terror into the hearts of redoubtable British Officials whose kith and kin here and in England rent the skies with shrieks for revenge, demanded stern and sterner measures to turn the whole Presidency into a big prison house for the people of Berhal.

Within the Prison Walls

(1933)

Convicted in one of the Babbar Akali Cases BHAI GURDIT SINGH was sentenced to a long term of imprisonment, and was finally confined in the Old Central Jail, Multan. The outside world came to know of his death through one of the released prisoners on October 17, 1933, that Bhai Gurdit Singh had succumbed only a few days before inside the prison walls.

Struggle with Death

(1933)

Belonging to a revolutionary party of Jamalpur, Mymensingh, BIREN DEY, a young man, was selected for dacoity at Sangalipara, Tangail Sub-Division, in December 1933.

While he was trying to force his entrance into the selected house, he was pierced on the back with a spear (*ballam*) with many points thrown at him by one of the villagers assembled there. He turned back, held the spear-head with his hand and left the place running followed by a small crowd who could notice him escaping. He covered a fairly long distance almost to reach the river-bank where the boat meant for retreat had been waiting.

The wound was deep, and loss of blood considerable. He fell to the ground thoroughly exhausted and was captured by his pursuers.

The police was informed who removed Biren to the hospital. The missile was extracted and Biren had to suffer additional torture due to an attempt on the part of the police to extract a confession.

In three days death relieved him both from the pangs of his injury and the clutches of his tormentors.

Released without Surety

(1934)

Once the police had cast his evil eye on a person, the curse would follow his footsteps to the grave.

JATINDRA NATH DUTTA of Village Bagbaid, Jamalpur Sub-Division, District Mymensingh, was arrested and detained in Mymensingh Central Jail for violation of provisions of the Arms Act. It was difficult for the police to establish a case against Jatin. He was released only to be rearrested under Section 110 of the Criminal Procedure Code.

On April 4, 1934, Jatin's relations were informed about the serious illness of the prisoner. Bail petition was moved on the next day. The Additional District Magistrate directed release of Jatin on bail on two sureties of Rs. 500 each.

These were duly offered and the police was ordered to test the fitness of the sureties.

Jatin's condition sharply deteriorated and he expired in the early hours of April 9, 1934.

Late in the day the police submitted report declaring the sureties to be unacceptable.

This could not prevent the poor man to be released from the prison. The dead body was handed over to the relatives on the express condition that no demonstration should be held relating to his funeral.

Mockery of Law

(1934)

Some Mahomedan villagers of Deobhog, adjoining Narayan-ganj town were sitting on the verandah of a roadside hut at 2 a.m. on April 10, 1934, when they saw three Hindu youths passing along the road. The unusual hour, their bare feet with rather decent dress aroused the suspicion of the Mahomedans who challenged them and enquired who and what they were.

One of the youths stopped, who happened to be accused MATILAL MALLIK, an inhabitant of Deobhog, the others continued their walk very slowly. Mati told his querist that the other youths were his companions who were returning after dining at his house. One of the Mahomedans went near them with Matilal and looked at their faces with the help of his torch. In doing so he noticed a bundle under Mati's arm which he pulled away from Mati and three balaclava caps fell out of it on the ground.

This event aroused his suspicion further and he caught hold of one of the young men, and two other Mahomedans seized the person of the remaining two youths.

The first young man took out a revolver with his left hand and fired at his captor, Muzaffar, the third youth shot Ramzan in his neck. Mati tried to take out dagger from his waist.

Mati and his two companions were able to extricate themselves from the clutches of the Mahomedans and were able to run away from the scene. The wounded men tried to chase the fugitives for a little distance while shouting at the top of their voice for help and apprehension of the desperadoes.

Villagers came out of their huts and gave a hot chase to the young men. Mati was arrested and was mercilessly belaboured on the spot. It was subsequently found that Muzaffar had been profusely bleeding from his wound while Ramzan was dead.

Mati was handed over to the police who subjected him to inhuman torture for confession. The prisoner suffered everything in silence with lips hermetically sealed.

A case was started against Mati Mallik and another on July 30, 1934. On August 4, charges were framed against Mati

under Sections 19-E of the Arms Act (XI of 1878 for having gone armed with a dagger) and 20-A of the same Act as amended by Bengal Act VII of 1934, read with Section 34 I.P.C., because in the furtherance of the common intention of his and two others, the latter two persons went armed with pistols and revolvers in contravention of the provision 13 of the Indian Arms Act (XI of 1878) under circumstances indicating that all of them intended that such firearms should be used for commission of the offence of murder;

Sec. 19-A of the Indian Arms Act as amended by Sec. 3 of the Bengal Act XXI of 1932 read with Sec. 34 I.P.C.;

Sec. 302 I.P.C. read with Sec. 34 I.P.C.;

Sec. 120-B I.P.C. read with Sec. 19-A of the Indian Arms Act XI of 1932; and

Sec. 120-B I.P.C. read with Sec. 20-A of the Indian Arms Act VII of 1934.

The Special Tribunal on August 9, 1934, found Mati guilty of all the charges and condemned him to death.

An appeal was heard in the High Court on Sept. 27, 1934, and in the course of the hearing the Deputy Legal Remembrancer dilated on the point of death penalty in a case under the Arms Act. In his opinion in a case of this description they were not concerned whether the person possessing the firearm intended to kill a particular person or whether merely they were carrying the weapon to escape by violence or show of violence, provided that when they embarked upon the adventure, they intended to commit murder, if necessary, to accomplish their purpose, whatever it was and that would be sufficient to inflict death penalty under Sec. 20-A of the Arms Act.

The High Court confirmed the judgment of the Special Tribunal on October 1, 1934, on a charge of "constructive murder" holding that the act of Mati was as if the latter himself fired the shot with his own hand. This was how the amended laws could send men to the gallows on offences that entailed maximum punishment of two to three years' rigorous imprisonment.

Execution took place in the Dacca Central Jail on December 15, 1934, at 6 in the morning.

Premature Release

(1934)

Arrested on suspicion along with hundreds of others that came under the sweep of the net thrown far and wide over Bengal by the Police, NANDA DULAL GHOSE was put to indefinite imprisonment in the Hijli Detention Camp with others who numbered a few hundred.

Dulal fell ill on April 15, 1934, with fever which in the succeeding days did show no sign of abatement. It was declared to be a case of small-pox and he was removed to the camp hospital on April 27. His father on information came running with a physician enjoying complete confidence of the family to see his ailing son and to make necessary arrangements for treatment with the help of his own doctor. Permission was refused. The boy expired on April 29, 1934, in the jail hospital. His co-prisoners took charge of the body and cremated a dear comrade in the local burning ghat.

In the Himalayan Heights

(1934-1935)

The measures of ruthless repression for changing the course of revolution had been tried in Ireland, with the result that only history can testify, and Sir John Anderson was credited with the worst features of the 'Black and Tan' operations that had disgraced the British administration in Ireland and England's other Dependencies.

The British Government must have been happy with the result. It was at least obsessed with the idea that the cowardly Bengalees would meekly submit before the onslaughts of a mighty ruler with experience of maintenance of law and order with strong hands.

To a troubled Bengal, the British Government sent Anderson as the Chief of the administration and if revolution could not be

suppressed, he at least fulfilled the expectations of the Government in introducing methods of repression that had no precedent anywhere in India. Along with the rule by ordinances, amendments of the prevailing criminal law, direction for abandoning civilized methods in handling political suspects, in tracking and arresting them, enhancement of punishment for contravention of the provisions of the Arms Act, the Explosive Substances Act, certain provisions of the Indian Penal Code, etc., became a by-word with his rule in Bengal.

Those who had staked everything and were prepared to sacrifice everything, life not excepted, became active in removing Anderson from the world. The matter was taken up very seriously by some young men of Joydebpur, Dacca, who became busy in finding out opportunity to give their idea a shape.

There being no other opportunity for getting very close to Anderson because of the heavy guard that always kept a vigil around him, decision was taken for confronting him at the race course in Lebong, Darjeeling.

At a secret meeting held on April 22, 1934, at Dacca, BHABANI PRASAD BHATTACHARYA and his partner were furnished with arms. They started for Calcutta on April 30, for fresh instructions. They went back to Joydebpur and at a further meeting held on May 2, the plan of action was completed and the two actors of the great drama left for Darjeeling. They reached destination on May 4, and put up at the Lewis Jubilee Sanatorium.

A party of two other conspirators went to Darjeeling straight from Calcutta and put up at another hotel. Bhabani Prasad received his weapon at the Snow View Hotel on May 5, 1934. It was decided that a chance would be taken at the Flower Show which Anderson was expected to visit. The opportunity could not be availed of because of difficulty in securing admission into it.

Two tickets were purchased for the race fixed on May 8, 1934, and Bhabani Prasad and his comrade in European costume took positions in the public stand to the right and left just a few yards away from Anderson's seat which was situated near the Steward's box almost at the bottom of the Grand Stand.

The race for the Governor's Cup had just ended and Anderson stood up. At the very moment Bhabani advanced a few steps and put his right hand on the concrete partition dividing

the public from the Governor. The assailant brought out his revolver and fired at his target standing only eight or nine feet away. The bullet missed its mark. Bhabani in his turn received four bullet wounds inflicted by some of those present. Moreover, a man jumped on him and fixed him to the ground.

The other man seeing Bhabani shoot advanced from his position in the front of the Grand Stand, went up the steps and fired at the Governor. He was only 5 ft. away. A by-stander jumped over the assailant and he was overpowered. He was also hit with a bullet from the revolver of a sergeant.

On search of the person of Bhabani ten .32 bore revolver cartridges and nine cartridges of the same bore were recovered from his *confreere*. The revolver snatched away from Bhabani had five cartridges, one spent, one misfired and three live, and in the revolver of the second man were six live cartridges; the capacity of the revolver was seven.

Bhabani in a statement to the police said that he came to assassinate the Governor and "according to my knowledge and faith, I committed no wrong. I am very sorry that he is living unhurt. I would have been very glad if I could kill him."

A case was started before a Special Tribunal on August 14, 1934, at Darjeeling against a number of accused.

They were charged with conspiracy to murder and to possess firearms, attempted murder and possessing arms under Section 20-A of the Arms Act which enhanced the penalty to death under these circumstances.

This principle of awarding capital punishment was introduced by Anderson himself and it was a fit case for application as the safety of the originator was involved. It may be mentioned that the Criminal Law Amendment Act as amended in 1932 by Sec. 6 made attempt at murder punishable with death.

In a judgment delivered on September 12, 1934, Bhabani and his two friends were sentenced to death.

The High Court on December 3, 1934, confirmed the death sentences of Bhabani and another; the punishment of the third man was reduced to one of transportation for life.

The Governor in the exercise of his power of clemency changed capital punishment to the next lower sentence on December 24, 1934, of the second accused who expressed his deep

regret for what he had done under the influence of others, particularly in trying to kill one whom he looked upon as his father.

Of the three accused facing capital punishment on the strength of the judgment of the Tribunal, Bhabani Prasad alone was executed on February 3, 1935, in the Rajshahi Jail.

Relations Beware!

(1934)

The police officer, a Superintendent of Police in charge of the Kakori Conspiracy Case for helping the prosecution, happened to be the maternal uncle of Manindra Nath Banerjee.

The severe sentences passed on the accused in the Kakori Case gave a rude shock to the mind of the impressionable youth, MANINDRA NATH BANERJI, who attacked the uncle on January 12, 1928, with a revolver killing him outright.

At the trial he was awarded ten years' rigorous imprisonment for culpable homicide not amounting to murder.

Manindra escaped the gallows. But while serving out his sentence he was attacked with pneumonia and on June 20, 1934, died in the Fategarh Central Jail.

Notable Amalgam

(1934)

A young man with remarkable literary flare, SANTWANA GUHA, combined his talent with dangerous political activities. While quite a young boy in his teens he contributed articles of great merit on politics, economics, biography, etc., which were published in the foremost dailies and periodicals of his time. He produced a large number of books of considerable merit most of which were proscribed by the Government for expression of extreme political views in them.

Such a man could not live outside the jail for long. He was at the age of twenty, arrested in 1931, in Calcutta and was sent

to the Rajshahi Jail as a detenu under the Bengal Criminal Law Amendment Act. His restless spirit frequently clashed with the hidebound regulations of the jail code and he suffered repeated punishments for their violation. During one of these additional incarcerations he fell ill, as a result of which he expired on December 19, 1934, from an undefined bowel complaints leaving the mission of his life not even partially fulfilled.

Last Abode

(1935)

Ignoring the chances of arrest by the police and consequent troubles SAMBHU NARAYAN was travelling from Delhi to Ajmer on November 13, 1934, with a revolver and five cartridges. He was arrested in the course of the journey. A search discovered one country-made pistol and some revolutionary literature in his house.

He was put up for trial and was lodged in Ajmer Jail as an undertrial under the Arms Act and Sec. 110 of the Criminal Procedure Code.

The mounting troubles put him off his head and he sought his release by hanging himself to death in the Jail on January 5, 1935.

At the End of the Tether

(1935)

A young boy of eighteen, ROHINI BARUA, was arrested under suspicion in February 1933, and interned in an unhealthy place under Goalunda Thana, Faridpur, at the mercy of a most unsympathetic Sub-Inspector of Police, Syed Ershad Ali.

Ershad enjoyed the annoyance that he could cause to Rohini and he had an unlimited fund of creating new and newer disadvantages, 'pin-pricks' as they were termed, to the helpless internee living away from parents and other relations without any

knowledge of the duration for which he would have to pass his days in a most uncongenial and irritating surroundings.

In the meantime news of his mother's demise in January followed by his brother's wife's affected his mind to a very large extent.

The Sub-Inspector had perhaps no idea that a person has a limit of endurance. Rohini would try to utilize his time in studies, and in fact passed his Matriculation Examination while in detention, but he was not allowed to live in peace. Several times he felt inclined to commit suicide "but decided to die not by committing suicide but by killing the man who treated me with such incivility."

There might have been a fresh dose of humiliation as the young man entered the office room of Ershad Ali at 8 p.m. on June 15, 1935, with a *dao* while his victim was at work, and dealt three blows on his neck in quick succession almost decapitating his head. Death was instantaneous.

Rohini was placed on trial before a Special Tribunal which commenced sitting on July 16, 1935. On July 18, judgment sentencing the boy to death was delivered. An appeal was moved in the High Court which passed its judgment on November 25, 1935, dismissing the appeal and confirming the sentence of the Tribunal.

On December 18, 1935, Rohini was executed in the Faridpur Jail. His dead body was disposed of by the jail authorities denying him the privilege of the last rites being performed by his relations.

Playing with Death

(1935)

Quite unsuspectingly a young lad ASHRAFI was engaged in preparing bombs with imperfect knowledge of the art, in *mausa* Gauhar, twelve miles off Darbhanga, under P.S. Madhubani.

At night of July 6, 1935, nobody knew when Ashrafi met with an accident inasmuch as he was found lying dead in the morning in an abandoned room with severe marks of injury from an explosion and burns on his face and chest.

In the course of a subsequent search police found a copy of a booklet entitled, *Punjaber hatyakanda*, "Massacre in the Punjab" and a manuscript copy of *angrejko khun karname*, 'for killing the English.'

He was just a young lad preparing for the forthcoming Matriculation Examination from the Pandaul High School.

Without Succour

(1935)

A young boy, UPENDRA NATH DATTA of Munshiganj, Dacca, was arrested in November 1931, like hundreds of other Bengali lads on suspicion and detained in the Buxa Detention Camp for about three years.

He was next ordered to be interned in Lalgola, Murshidabad, an extremely unhealthy place in 1935. Upen was attacked with malignant malaria and before Government permission for his treatment reached the Police Station, the internee died there in the same year almost unattended and without any medical aid worth the name.

A Dark Deed

(1936)

From an extremely harassed family a veritable target of police vindictiveness, a young man, NABA JIBAN GHOSH, brother of Nirmal Jiban Ghosh, was externed from Midnapore, his home district in November, 1933.

While in Calcutta he was arrested in February 1934, under the Bengal Criminal Law Amendment Act and sent to the Berhampore Detention Camp. He was transferred as an internee to P.S. Gopalganj in the Faridpur district in June or July, 1936.

It was alleged that Naba Jiban committed suicide on September 22, 1936. His body was found hanging from a rafter of his room. The local people stated that there were occasions

when the helpless internee clashed with the Thana Officer and not unoften was mercilessly belaboured. It was palpable that on an occasion where the assault had exceeded human endurance, Naba Jiban lost his life. To be brief, it was a case of diabolical murder.

The Officer-in-Charge stated that Naba Jiban left two letters, one addressed to the Government, and another to his father. Repeated requests could not move the S.D.O., to allow the letter even to be read by the aggrieved father.

The fog intended to be raised against the suspicious nature of death of the internee was too thin to prevent the light of truth being seen from a distance. [Ref. Ghosh, B. J.: *Murder of British Magistrates*, 1962, p. 69 *et seq.*].

Death in the Desert

(1936)

How intolerable had been the living conditions in the Deoli Detention Camp, Rajputana, could be gauged by the number of cases where young boys attributed with the nerves of steel committed suicide one after another and that at not very long intervals.

SANTOSH CHANDRA GANGULI formed one of the legion. He took away his life with his own hand on October 17, 1936, followed by the usual Government communique dilating on the cause of his death which no sane man believed to be true.

Typical Revolutionary

(1937)

Very seldom coming out to the open for participating in public functions, supporting Congress views and mass movements but scarcely taking part in any of them, never holding any office in the public bodies that might bring name, fame and lucre, a quiet leader among men, SATCARI BANERJEE of Mahinagar,

24-Parganas, was a mighty figure in the revolutionary organisation of Bengal from his early years till death.

His heart was full to overflowing with milk of human kindness, weeping over sufferings of fellow human beings irrespective of caste, creed, sex, social or economic position. He possessed a peculiar charm that would influence his co-villagers and young friends to undergo any trouble, to face any risk. His words were law.

He would take a little time to take a decision over grave matters even involving the dearest of human possession, life itself. But once taken, it was sure to happen. Amongst his compeers and co-workers he would not tolerate any weakness, vascillation or turning back. In respect of revolutionary activities he would sternly suppress any mental attitude that went counter to courageous thought and bold action. "Don't come in if you have not the courage. If you are in, you must go the whole length", was his motto in practice.

Throughout his life, Satcari, dear 'Satu' of his elders and 'Satda' of his juniors, spent a life of discipline, of asceticism, bereft of all unnecessary comforts, using only so little as was essential for healthy robust living.

As a revolutionary Satcari would seek no favour from the enemy on his own account, howevermuch his inconvenience or suffering might have been inside the jail or outside it during internments in the most unhealthy living conditions.

He would never write for an interview with parents, appeal for family allowances, abatement of rigours of vindictive regulations, relaxation of internment rules, requisitions for medical aid, or anything of the sort. His file with the police covering a period of more than three decades of his revolutionary activities contained only the orders for arrest, transfer, detention and release, and not a scrap of paper written with his own hand.

A giant amongst the Bengal revolutionary fighters, a life dedicated to the cause of Indian Independence, Satcari breathed his last in the far-away Deoli Jail, where many a blossom had faded betimes due to uncongenial climate for Bengal prisoners, on February 6, 1937, from haemorrhagic piles for the treatment of which there was no proper arrangement in that sandy waste.

Act of a Novice

(1938)

From a very early life HARENDRA NATH MUNSHI got himself enlisted in revolutionary organisation and before long was arrested in connection with the Inter-Provincial Conspiracy Case in 1934. He was sentenced to five years' rigorous imprisonment for conspiracy and transferred to Diamond Harbour Sub-Jail and then to Dacca Central Jail to serve out his sentence.

He resorted to hunger strike on January 21, 1938. The usual practice of nasal feeding went wrong with him, the tube having been misdirected to the windpipe instead to the food. It was the act of a novice who perhaps had not seen it done before. The result was that poor Haren lost his life as a victim of pneumonia on January 30, 1938.

Historic Revenge

(1940)

Examples are rare where a sense of national humiliation and distress over mass massacre of the innocents had been remembered for well-nigh a quarter of a century by a son of the Province where the diabolical crime was enacted, and dire revenge was taken in a country where the perpetrator had retired enjoying life without the least suspicion that retribution might visit him from the land of his devilry.

Michael O'Dwyer was directly responsible for the Punjab atrocities committed in 1919. He handed over his charge of Governorship on May 26, and left the shores of India on May 30, 1919. To add insult to injury inflicted on Indian sentiment, O'Dwyer was presented with a purse of £20,000 by his grateful countrymen on his reaching home. He did not abate his animus against India and poured his bile in the book, *India as I knew It*, where he complained of the punishment of many civil and military officers who worked during the disturbances.

But nemesis had been persistently tracking his foot-steps.

On March 13, 1940, he started from his Kensington home with the words: "Good-bye, I shall be back in time for tea at 5 o'clock." He went straight to the meeting organised jointly by the Royal Central Asian Society and the East India Association held in the Tudor Room of the Caxton Hall for the purpose of attending a lecture on Afghanistan.

Just before Lord Zetland, the Chairman, opened the meeting the accused pushed his way through a number of people in a gangway and stood with his back to the wall facing the platform opposite the fourth or fifth row of the seats from the front.

The meeting ended at 4-30 p.m. The vote of thanks had just been given and the visitors were on the point of parting and speaking farewell to one another, the assailant, hurriedly advanced towards the platform and fired five or six shots in quick succession. Naturally, there was a stampede for the gate. A dark thick-set man, UDHAM SINGH, the assailant, was seen dashing towards the door shouting all the time "Make way" at the top of his voice and rushed down the crowded aisle towards the door.

He was at once held by two men who bore him to the ground. There was a struggle and many men sat on him completely preventing his movement.

O'Dwyer was hit by two bullets at his back, one below the other, running parallel courses through the body. One bullet emerged on the left side leaving an open wound and the other finished its course in the abdominal wall. The first bullet was effective and O'Dwyer was killed instantaneously.

The assailant, Muhammad Singh Azad, an Engineer, after interrogation by the police was placed before a Magistrate on March 14, 1940, when he was remanded to police custody for a week.

Azad was seen smiling and chatting to two officers who accompanied him as he entered the court premises and with one of whom he was handcuffed.

The accused refused to ask any question and the proceedings of the day were finished in two minutes.

It subsequently transpired that the name of the assailant was Udhham Singh, hailing from Punjab. He used to call himself in India as Muhammad Singh Azad. A Sikh by birth, he was a

socialist worker and served a short term of imprisonment for delivering a seditious speech in India.

The accused was placed before the Court on April 2, 1940. The long pique that he bore against O'Dwyer was clear from the fact that Udham Singh noted down the name and address of his victim "Sir M. O'Dwyer, Sunnybank, Thurlston, South Devon", on the page, 'Cash A/c'. His diary for 1939 and 1940 showed the same entry on the identical page for both the years.

Udham Singh in a statement declared:

I did it because I had a grudge against him. He deserved it. I do not care, I do not mind dying. What is the use of waiting until you get old. You want to die when you are young. That is good. That's what I'm doing. I am dying for my country. Is Lord Zetland dead? He ought to be. I put two into him, right there (indicating his stomach).

He was arrested with a six-chambered .445 weapon of American make, produced for the British Government 25 years before, twenty-five rounds of ammunition and a linoleum knife. The ammunition itself was about thirty years old and as a result of which some cartridges were seen fitting loosely in the revolver.

When the Magistrate called out his name, he said 'My name is not Udham Singh, Sir!' He was known to his friends, as Ram Muhammad Singh Azad.

On April 21, the accused was charged at Bow Street Police Court with wilful murder of Sir Michael O'Dwyer.

To a police officer, who had told him that he would be detained, he said it was no use doing that; it was all over. He continued:

I have seen people starving in India under British Imperialism. I am not sorry for protesting. It was my duty to do so just for the sake of my country. I do not mind what sentence—10, 20 or 50 years, or be hanged.

He was committed to the Old Bailey Central Criminal Court which passed a sentence of death. Udham Singh, a noble son of Mother India was executed on June 12, 1940 (Source: *Department of Public Relations and Tourism, Punjab*) in London leaving an indelible name in the list of heroes who had given away their lives for the simple joy of serving the Motherland without any hope of recompense.

Disease or Torture?

(1941)

For his political activities from early active life it was difficult for him to avoid attention of the police. JITENDRA NATH MALLIK became a much harassed man, now evading arrest and in the next few weeks thrown into prison.

He suffered detention in jail, camps and was interned in unhealthy village surroundings for a number of times. He was hardly given any respite. Between the life of an absconder and a prisoner, he reached Lucknow in December 1941. He was attacked with enteric fever and was confined to bed. In such a helpless condition he was arrested by the police on December 13, 1941, and removed to the Central Jail on the same date.

The condition of the patient was to all conscience serious but there was no relaxations of the rigours of prison life. The patient died in two days, i.e. on December 15, 1941, inside the jail. It was rumoured at the time that Jiten was subjected to third degree methods as a result of which he expired.

The dead body was not delivered to his relations but to the Arya Samaj of the locality for cremation.

Fate Unknown

(1945)

Amongst those about whom very little is known KUSUM RANJAN PAL was one. While a student in the college he participated in the Non-co-operation Movement and suffered imprisonment for a short term. He went over to England to eke out a career and turned to business dealing in Indian minerals. During the World War II he came in close touch with Netaji, joined his party and used to broadcast on the Azad Hind Radio in Berlin in furtherance of the cause of Indian freedom.

Kusum was removed to Russia as a prisoner and nothing has been heard about him since then. In this respect Kusum has his predecessor in Veerendra Nath Chattopadhyaya. Instead of taking any unnecessary trouble of keeping them alive uselessly, the Russians might have made a short shrift of the two Indians, who passed unto eternity through uncertain gateway.

CHAPTER NINE-A

OUT OF TURN

Ripples of the Main

There is no question for putting in this section names of a number of martyrs as they could not find any other place for reasons of their discovery rather late.

The cases about which details are lacking have been mentioned in the expectation that some of these martyrs may find some friends and relations who would be able to supply some flesh of information to the skeleton of names enabling better identification.

The greatest difficulty lies with those about whom 'hearsay' is the only source of information, confirmed from no other. The risk is great. News about a political prisoner's death in the Andamans was furnished by a friend of undoubted integrity and was written out for the Press in all its details. Another friend gleaning through the pages of the manuscript urged an enquiry about the 'martyr' at a particular place. It was both dismay and joy to find the 'dead man', though very old, still in good health. It is not unlikely that the same unwitting error has been committed about some other. If he is alive, may he live long!

The risk of omitting a name worthy of enumeration from all conscience had also to be reckoned with. Weighing every aspect of such cases in a delicate balance, and tossed between the two horns of the dilemma, the only prudent course of leaving it to the judgment of the reader has been adopted with the fullest knowledge of the trouble involved.

Uttam Singh

A member of the *Ghadr* Party, UTTAM SINGH returned home from U.S.A. and directed his activity towards tampering with the army units. He was arrested on September 15, 1915, while resting in a village. He was sentenced to death and executed. (Ref. *Swami Keshabanand abhinandan granth*, pp. 191-192).

Prabodh Bhattacharya

A young student of the Rajshahi College, PRABODH was killed at Tippera in 1916 in connection with the Laliteswar Dacoity. (Ref. Pakrasi, S.: *Agni diner katha*, 1947, p. 57).

Hari Das Das

A resident of Setalampur under P.S. Diamond Harbour, HARI DAS DAS, happened, as the police alleged, to be a member of the Bhawanipore revolutionary group. He was arrested like many other suspects and interned at Baroipara, P.S. Putia, Rajshahi, in 1916.

The place was notoriously unhealthy and the allowance granted to him was extremely meagre and very irregular. He was at his wit's end to meet his daily wants not to speak of medical expenses if any. Sometimes he would go without food and all representations for removing his difficulties went unheeded. Finding him in such a plight his casual police guard volunteered to prepare the meal from his own resources provided the *daroga saheb* would guarantee payment. The proposal was rejected.

In July, Hari Das visited the Putia Guest House on some business with the knowledge of the police and came back on the 9th with high fever which had relapsed after a few days' interval. The police saw him on the 17th and also on the next day to whom he related his grievances. All his efforts for a change having proved unavailing the distracted man committed suicide by hanging on July 18, 1917, much to the relief of the Government.

The Government communicated the news to the father of the victim together with abundance of sympathy "for the bereavement suffered by yourself, by the wife of Hari Das and by all his family." The intimation did not fail to mention that "there was no suspicion of foul play".

Sisir Kumar Guha

A most heroic deed was done by SISIR KUMAR GUHA at noon on December 23, 1907, when at Goalundo he shot at the back, though not fatally, of Mr. Allen, a former District Magistrate of Dacca in the midst of a concourse of men. He was successful in evading arrest.

After the incident Sisir turned a recluse and led a quiet life for nearly seven years. In 1914, he was arrested and sentenced to a term of rigorous imprisonment for one year. He served out the sentence and on release was re-arrested and interned in a village. It was given out to the world that Sisir had died in his domicile. (Ref. Chakrabarti, T. S.: *Biplabi Bangla*, 1757-1912, p. 159). No further information is available.

Rebati Charan Nag

It was not uncommon that the death of many a political suspect had been shrouded in mystery but the case of Rebati pales all other incidents of the same nature into insignificance.

Rebati passed his Matriculation Examination in the First Division in 1915, from the Comilla Zilla School. His father, a man in straitened circumstances, desired him to take a job with a view to earning and helping the family. Rebati left home, in June 1915, and it came to be known after his departure that he had expressed his desire to prosecute his studies till he obtained his M.A. degree and then start a decent life.

He was known to have gone over to Bhagalpur where he had taken his admission in the local college in the Intermediate Class living on a small stipend from the Cossimbazar Estate and by putting up in the family of a respectable gentleman as the guardian tutor of two minor children. For some reason or other he left Bhagalpur on October 18, 1916, and shortly after the police came there with a warrant for his arrest. The room occupied by him was thoroughly searched and all his belongings were taken away. It was presumed that he was wanted in connection with the murder at the time of his leaving the school of the Head Master at Comilla who was suspected of acting as an informer to the police.

Nothing was heard of Rebati till a police officer invited one of the distant relations of Rebati to meet him at Bhingra railway station, quite at a distance from the village Upalata, Tippera, the native place of Rebati and handed over to him 89 items of articles found in Rebati's room at Bhagalpur with the message that he had been murdered there by his comrades in January 1917.

The mystery deepened when the *Report of the Sedition Committee, 1918*, (p. 89), came out with the information that

Rebati "was murdered by his comrades at Serajganj, . . . on a charge of immorality". The father of the victim was never informed nor any of his other relations as has been already told till February, 1920, *i.e.*, after a lapse of three years after his demise. The same *Report* states (pp. 128-130) that Rebati was a very prominent and active member of the revolutionary party in Bihar, in fact he was one who was known to have influenced a number of youngmen with the cult of violence. The charge of 'immorality' suits ill with what is known of him from various sources, *i.e.*, the person who gave him shelter, a teacher who knew him quite well and his other close friends, that he had no such blemishes that may bring about his violent death from his party men.

Moreover, a letter received by the father in Mandalay, the place where he had been working for his livelihood, under post mark East Rangoon, March 19, 1920, that Rebati was arrested by the police and was tortured to death for extracting a confession.

The version is quite in keeping with what is known about Rebati's character, the suspicious nature of communicating the cause and date of his death and the discrepancy with regard to the place of occurrence, *viz.*, Bhagalpur and Serajganj. A sifting enquiry at Serajganj could not bring out from the local public anything about any murder in the area in January 1917.

There had been records of such suspicious deaths both before and after Rebati's, where the police had been the sole cause but attributed it to suicide after becoming insane over-night or from violence by comrades. It is clear that it took the Government nearly three years to coach a suitable scapegoat to own the crime, with a promise not be prosecuted or punished.

Surendra (Sourendra) Kusari

In 1917, a shop in the Armenian Street was raided by a revolutionary group on May 7. Two persons were killed and two others were seriously injured. SURENDRA (SOURENDRA) KUSARI, a raider, was hit by a bullet discharged by one of his party. He was bodily carried by his comrades to a safe place but had ultimately to succumb to his wounds. (Ref. Guha, N. K.: *Bangalaaya biplab-bad*, p. 201).

A Galaxy

In reply to a question in the *Bengal Legislative Council*, the Home Member gave the following reply:

SURENDRA NATH KAR committed suicide in jail.

KESHAB LAL DEY died of typhoid fever.

JATINDRA NATH RAY died of cholera.

DIHIRENDRA MOHAN MUKHERJEE died of cholera.

(*The Amrita Bazar Patrika*, July 5, 1918).

Bhag Singh

BHAG SINGH was mentioned as an accused in one of the Lahore Conspiracy Cases. It was stated that in the course of the trial the accused met with his death in a scuffle with an informer. (Ref. *The Amrita Bazar Patrika*, January 8, 1917).

Santi Chakrabarti

An active member of the revolutionary party, SANTI was arrested on suspicion in 1923, in connection with an explosion of a bomb thrown from outside in a shop in Mirzapore Street, Calcutta. He was placed before a Magistrate for trial and was discharged for want of evidence. On a particular day he started from his residence, according to the secret message he left, to visit a friend who had promised to return some arms deposited with him for safe custody before Santi's apprehended arrest.

Santi did not return during the night. The friends who had knowledge about his mission became nervous about his fate and started a frantic search for him. Before long, Santi's dead body was found near the railway line not far from the Dum Dum Station with several gaping wounds on his person. (Ref. Chanda, G. N.: *Abismaraniya*, p. 69).

Udham Singh 'Kasel'

While in U.S.A., UDHAM SINGH joined the *Ghadr* Party and returned to India by *Tosa Maru* in 1914. He was arrested on landing in Calcutta and was removed to Punjab. Subsequently he was made an accused in one of the Lahore Conspiracy Cases and on conviction transported to the Andaman Cellular Jail on December 10, 1915.

Imprisonment and hard labour in the Cellular Jail could not subdue his fiery spirit. When a co-prisoner was vilely abused for failing to produce his quota of coir, Udham Singh severely assaulted the Jailer in his office for his conduct and in turn suffered his share of violence.

Under the changed policy of the Government the prisoner was repatriated to India and lodged in the Bellary Jail. He managed to escape from his captivity, and after encountering untold hardships somehow reached Punjab. As it became more and more difficult to stay any further in his secret haunt, Udham Singh crossed the frontier in 1922, and reached Kabul (Lalpura) where he remained in hiding for some time. Three other comrades joined him in the course of a few months and they jointly, under assumed names, started a journal, *Kirti*, for preaching Marxism for the masses. (Ref. *Deshbhakt Yada*, November 1963, p. 16). The rest of his career is shrouded in mystery.

Nripendra Nath Datta

and

Birendra Nath Chakrabarti

While proceeding along the railway track in Jalpaiguri to reach a scheduled place for cutting telegraph wires for interrupting communications in 1930, two youngmen NRIPENDRA and BIRENDRA were run over and killed by a speeding railway engine that came upon them unawares. (Ref. Chanda, G. N.: *Abismaraniya*, p. 159).

Pritam Khan

In connection with a train dacoity case PRITAM KHAN was sentenced to death and he lost his life on the gallows. (Ref. All-India Revolutionary Martyrs Committee, *Album*, p. 59).

Ganeshilal Khasta

An accused in the Benares Conspiracy Case, GANESHILAL was awarded a long term of imprisonment. While serving out his sentence he died behind the prison bars. (Ref. *Ibid*, p 12).

Kehar Singh

Nothing in particular is known about KEHAR SINGH save that he died inside a jail. (Ref. *Ibid*, p. 59).

Rabindra Mohan Kar

While undergoing imprisonment in a political case, RABINDRA died of a disease. (Ref. Gupta, M. N.: *Kakori sarajantrer smriti*, p. 65).

Pathake

The mutiny of troops at Singapore was to a large extent due to the efforts of PATHAKE, a member of the *Ghadr* Party. He was arrested and placed before a Court Martial and lost his life by execution. (Ref. Sharma, S. L., and Kumar, S. R.: *Indian Freedom Struggle Centenary*, p. 226).

Venkataraman

VENKATARAMAN died in Madras as the effect of an explosion (Ref. Das Gupta, P.: *Biplaber pathe*, p. 174).

Bhupen Majumdar

BHUPEN while an absconder, died of cholera in the Pala *ashram*. He was 'wanted' by the police in connection with the Inter-State Conspiracy Case. (Ref. *Ibid*, p. 176).

Hem Chandra Bhattacharya

An Inter-State conspiracy prisoner HEM CHANDRA died in the Rajshahi Jail. (Ref. *Ibid*, p. 253).

Mohit Adhikari

Convicted in connection with the Bihar Arms Act Case, ADHIKARI died in jail. (Ref. *Ibid*, p. 253).

Dhanesh Bhattacharya

While suffering from serious ailments DHANESH died in the Midnapore Jail in 1937. (Ref. Mahajati Sadan: *Saheed Smriti*, Serial No. 93).

Dhirendra Nath Dey

Arrested on suspicion, DHIRENDRA was confined in Jamalpur Town Police Station, Mymensingh. He was tortured to death in the lock-up. (Ref. *Ibid*, Serial No. 75).

Manindra Ukil

Arrested on suspicion in 1930, and passing through several jails in Bengal, MANINDRA at long last reached the Deoli Jail in Rajputana. He developed tuberculosis of the lungs and was released at the last stage to die outside the prison house. .

Jashoda Pal

An accused in the Dakhineswar Bomb Case, JASHODA when sentenced to long term of imprisonment was in an extremely bad state of health. He was prematurely released from custody and met with his death before recovery.

Birendra Nath Dey

BIRENDRA NATH DEY joined a party for 'action' in December 1933, at Sangaliapara, Tangail Sub-Division. A *ballam* thrown by a villager pierced his body. He ran away holding it with his hands, just to fall dead at the bank of the river near the boat which was meant for their escape.

'Hearsay'

SACHINDRA NATH RAY, to avoid police surveillance, went underground in 1915, and was not heard thereafter.

GOPES CHANDRA RAY died in internment in Patharpratima.

MAHESH BARUA, convicted in connection with the Bathua Dacoity Case, died in jail while serving out his sentence.

SUNIL CHAKRABARTI of Barisal died in Rajshahi Jail.

JITEN SAMADDAR of Barisal died in internment.

HARAN CHAKRABARTI while proceeding along the railway track to reach Basudebpur for the purpose of participating in an 'action' was run over by a running train and killed. .

DHIRENDRA NATH BARUA was severely assaulted by police in Chittagong for shouting slogan of a revolutionary character as the effect of which he died.

RAMJEE KALAHATKAR was arrested in 1910, in connection with the Nasik Conspiracy Case when he had been suffering from tuberculosis. The new surroundings hastened his death in prison.

SUSHIL DATTA was killed in 1916, in North Bengal in an encounter with the police.

MANINDRA BOSE was shot dead by the police in 1915, in Mymensingh.