CHAPTER 4
PEOPLE’S ACTIVITIES IN THE REGION: BENARES, GHAZIPUR AND AZAMGARH

Addressing the gathering of 70,000 men and women in the open session on 8th August 1942, Gandhi declared nothing short of complete freedom will satisfy Indian and asked every Indians¹:

...from this moment onwards, consider yourself a free man or woman, and act as if you are free and are no longer under the heel of this (British) imperialism....²

By giving his mantra of ‘Do or Die’ he asked Indians not to rest till freedom is achieved. He further asked them to prepare to lay their lives in the attempt to achieve freedom. Gandhi and all members of working committee who attended All India Congress Committee Meeting in Bombay were arrested early morning on 9th August 1942. All except Pant and Mehtab were sent off by special train at 7.20am to Poona and Ahmednagar in Maharashtra. Jairam Das Daulatram, new member of Congress working Committee was not in Bombay and his whereabouts were unknown.³

Immediately after, Gandhi’s arrest, a secret meeting attended by about 70 A.I.C.C. members who were then assembled in Bombay drew up a twelve–point programme, copies of which were cyclostyled and handed over to provincial representatives for distribution. Another circular prepared and distributed at the same time is believed to have been the work of members of the Congress Socialist party. Andhra congress Committee circular was already known to the masses. These documents show clear evidence of planning.⁴

¹ NMML, Bombay PCC paper, F. No. 26, p. 1.
² Ibid.
³ NAI, Home Poll, File No. 3/16/42, 1942 p. 86.
⁴ QSPCP – 21, 1942, op.cit., p. 32; Those principally involved in the August 9, 1942 secret meeting in Bombay were Mrs. Sucheta Kripalini, Dr. Rammanohar Lohia, Ram Nandan Mishra, Achyut Patvardhan and Sadiq Ali (NAI, Home Poll, F. No. 4/4/44, 1944). After sometime, Girdhari Kripalini, Balkrishna Keskar, Dwarkanath Kachru and Ram Sevak Pandey joined them (NAI, Home Poll, F. No. 3/70/43, 1943); Besides them, there were also Purushottam Trikamdas, Mohanlal Saxena, Sadashiv Mahadev Joshi, San Guruji, Kamalas Devi Chattopadhya and Poormima Banerji (cf. A.C. Bhujan, ibid, p. 103) Most of them had assumed nicknames in order to avoid detection, eg. Suchata Kripalini – Dadi, Rammanohar Lohia – Doctor, Achyut Patvardhan – Kusum, Sadiq Ali – Satya, The person who acted as intermediary between the AICC office and the central directorate was known as ‘kikaji’ (NAI, Home Poll, F. No. 3/70/43, 1943). The twelve–point programme writes, Paul R. Greenough, was probably the first underground publication of the quit India movement to be distributed nationally, and copies were
Following is the summary of A.I.C.C's twelve-point programme in which preamble states that with arrest of Gandhi every man and woman in India is his successor and victory or death be their motto:

(1) Country-wide hartal with meetings in villages and cities to deliver the “Quit India” message. It meetings are banned, ban should be resisted.
(2) Free manufacture of salt and resistance to salt laws.
(3) Complete “non-violent non-cooperation” with administration including no-rent campaign.
(4) Call to students, whose sacred duty is to awaken the country. Students cannot be passive spectators but must leave their colleges and universities to take the place of arrested leaders and conduct the non-violent struggle to its victorious conclusion.
(5) Government servants are asked whether they will betray their country by supporting the alien governments in this struggle. Those who have not the courage to resign and joint the movement should at least refuse to carry out repressive orders.
(6) Every soldier should consider himself a congressman and disobey any order which goes against his congress conscience.
(7) Peoples of the Indian states must make common cause with the people of India in the struggle.
(8) Women have a decisive role and must be prepared for sacrifice and suffering.
(9) Every man and woman must carry a badge bearing the motto “do or die” to proclaim determination to be free or to perish in the attempt.
(10) All communities must participate in the struggle.
(11) The objective is the ending of foreign rule. Whatever helps in the attainment of that objective in permissible subject to condition of non-violence. People in the provinces must devise ways of paralyzing the administration. Each man is his own guide and leader; he must assert that he is a freeman and banish fear.
(12) Last but not least “let us not forget spinning so dear to Gandhi.” “Do or Die”. The socialists circular, talked about parallel government. It instructed to put thanas, tahsils and district headquarters out of action through non-violence. They were to organize a general strike in colleges, offices, retail shops and factories.

Andhra circular published by Madras had already received wide circulation. Its provision was as follows:

“Programme of work for the attainment of complete independence

1. Cutting off all telephone and telegraph wires.
2. Removal of rails, wherever possible and demolitions of bridges, red flags being posted (at places where demolition work is undertaken) to avert possible danger to human life.
3. Travelling in trains without tickets and pulling the chains to stop trains.
4. Visiting military camps and telling the military personal to leave their jobs.
5. Visiting police and other government offices and forcing government servants to resign their jobs.
6. Yarn and grains to be collected in villages which are self-sufficient.
7. Running our own post-offices and arranging for prompt delivery of letters.
8. Picketing the law courts, occupying the seat of the magistrate and performing his functions and also settling disputes with the help of panchayats.
9. No to pay land tax, sales tax, etc.

seized by the police in distant Bengal as early as August 11. It had been duplicated with pen and typewriter by 30 volunteers and carried by Congress men returning home from the AICC meetings. Printed copies were subsequently distributed widely (Francis G Hutchins, Ibid. pp. 270-1; P.N. Chopra, Ibid. pp. 90-1; Paul R. Greenough, Ibid. pp. 360-1.

\[\text{NAI, Home Poll, F. No. 3/31//42, p. 81.}\]
\[\text{QSPCP – 21, 1942, op.cit., p. 33.}\]
\[\text{NAI, Home Poll, F. No. 3/31//42, 1942, p. 80.}\]
To arrange to inform the village munsiffs and karanams that British rule in India has come to an end and that India has attained independence.

If the village officers refuse to believe the above, they should be replaced by new officers.

If, however, replacement of the village officers by new ones is not practicable, they should be disowned by the villagers.

To organize hartals and news propaganda centres.

To organize picketing toddy and attack depots, foreign cloth shops and government offices.

To pass, if necessary, no-confidence motions against government servants.

To impede the war efforts of the government.

To tell the shop-keepers that British government is no more in India and that the panchayat system of government has taken its place.

Ryots and merchants to refuse pay and kind of tax to the government.

To arrange to prepare a seal, on the model of that of the government of India bearing inscription “Government of Free India” or “Swrajya Sarkar” and use it.

To run parallel government in competition with the British government.

British currency notes have no value hereafter. Exchange your currency notes for silver coins.

Message delivery by Mahatma Gandhi while going to the Jail

That every Indian should, from this day onwards, regard himself as an independent man and his country as an independent country.

That every Indian should think he is free to do anything in a non-violent manner to free his country from the fetters of bondage.

That they should paralyse the British government in India.

That satyagrahis should sacrifice their lives in this struggle.

That India will attain freedom only if satyagrahis are prepared to invite and face death.

Do! Die! Either you must die in this struggle to attain independence for the country. Awake, arise and wait no more.

All the above instructions were very clear and there was no ambiguity in it. This was the time when Subhas Bose from Berlin called upon every Indian with the help of Axis Broadcasts, to answer the call of the “last battle” for Indian emancipation. Later he gave detailed instructions about the conduct of the movement. Soon after this broadcast, cyclostyled Hindi bulletin were circulated in different parts of India.

The following pamphlets were issued by individual political activists and various political parties for dissemination of anti-imperialistic ideas among the people of the region and to initiate the discussion on the strategy and tactics of the Congress for launching an agitation.

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8 NAI, Home Poll, F. No. 3/42/42, 1942, p. 31.
Table 4.1: Pamphlets from Various Political Parties:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S. No.</th>
<th>Pamphlets/Leaflets</th>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Language</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Message of Forward Block</td>
<td></td>
<td>English</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Bagawat Ka kullam Khulla Sandesh or Bagawat Ka Khula Paigam</td>
<td></td>
<td>Hindi</td>
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<td></td>
<td>(the open call for revolt)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Urdu</td>
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<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Ab Der Kyon (why delay)</td>
<td>M.R.R.</td>
<td>Hindi</td>
</tr>
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<td>4.</td>
<td>The parting of the ways</td>
<td>Jawaharlal Nehru</td>
<td>English</td>
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<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Samrajyabadi Jung Aur Hamra Kartabya (The Imperial war and our Duty)</td>
<td>Bihar Communist party</td>
<td>Hindi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Toofani Jang (Stormy war)</td>
<td>Harkhial Singh Azad</td>
<td>Hindi</td>
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<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>Bharat Varsha Ki Vyatha (The tragic story of Bharat)</td>
<td>Swmai Ganeshanand</td>
<td>Hindi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>Angrezi Sarkar Ab Chand Roza Hai (The British Government lasts for few days)</td>
<td>Jadunandan</td>
<td>Hindi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>52 Larai Ka Sukshama Congress Alha Ithas ya Pranitiya Swaraj Tatha Kuchh Naya Qanun (The micro history of 52nd struggle of the congress or provincial freedom and some new laws)</td>
<td>Pandit Chhedi Lal Pandye</td>
<td>Hindi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.</td>
<td>Bharat Nahi Azad (Unfree India)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Hindi</td>
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The British government had been preparing for the strike since the outbreak of the war itself, and since 1940 had been ready with an elaborate revolutionary movements ordinance. On 8 August, 1940 the Viceroy, Linlithgow, in a personal letter to the governors made his intentions clear:

I feel very strongly that the only possible answer to a declaration of war by any section of Congress in the present circumstances must be dealt with firm determination to crush the organization as a whole.  

Following the direction of the Viceroy, the UP government took up the repressive measures against the political activists as well as against the nationalist political organizations during the days of Quit India movement. The criminal Law Amendment Act, 1932 was extended to the whole of the United Provinces on August

10 NAI, Home Poll, F. No. 37/26/41, 1941.
11 Ibid.
12 NAI, Home Poll, F. No. 37/38/41, 1941.
13 NAI, Home Poll, F. No. 37/14/41, 1941.
14 NAI, Home Poll, F. No. 37/10/41, 1941.
15 NAI, Home Poll, F. No. 37/12/41, 1941.
16 NAI, Home Poll, F. No. 37/15/41, 1941.
17 NAI, Home Poll, F. No. 37/16/41, 1941.
19 Francis Hutchins, Spontaneous Revolution: The Quit India Movement, (New Delhi, 1971), p. 191
20 NAI, Home Poll, 3/33/42, 1942, pp. 94-5.
The followings were declared unlawful association under the Indian Criminal Law Amendment Act, 1908, on August 9, 1942:

i) The All India Congress Committee
ii) The All India Congress working Committee
iii) All Provincial, District, Town, City, Tahsil, ward or Mandal Committee or other bodies within the United Provinces directing or controlling the activities of:
   a) The Indian National Congress and
   b) The congress Socialist Party

The following places are notified on August 9, 1942 under the India Criminal Law Amendment Act 1908 as places used for the purposes of an unlawful association:

i) The offices of all District, Town, City, Tahsil, Ward, Sub-divisional and Mandal Congress Committees in the United Provinces.
ii) The office of the All India Congress Committee, Allahabad and Swaraj Bhawan.
iii) The offices of the United Provinces Provincial Congress Committee, Lucknow.
iv) The Offices of the Congress Socialist Party, United Provinces, Lucknow.

The imperial government also responded by gagging the nationalist and the pro-congress press which were popular among the masses in the United Provinces. The worst affected presses were:

Aj. Daily Sansar, Hind Kesari and Shankhnad (Benares); Purvanchal Doot (Ghazipur); Samaj (Jaunpur); Dawat (Gorakhpur); Adhikar, National Herald, Hindustan, Sangharsh and Aftab (Lucknow); Navin Bharat, Pratap (Cownpore); Sandesh and Ujala (Agra) etc. 21

Many provincial and district level leaders who had evaded arrest at Bombay returned to their native places and they began to organized the people in various manners to oppose the colonial administration at district, pargana and village level. After 9th August, 1942, there was tremendous mass upsurge at various places of the country. The people started to attack the symbols and sign of government’s authority i.e. police stations, post offices, kutcheries (courts), railway stations etc. National flags were forcibly hoisted on public buildings in defiance of the police. At other places, groups of Satyagrahis offered arrest in tehsil or district headquarters. Crowds of villages, often numbering a few hundred or even a couple of thousand, physically removed railway tracks, and cut telephone and telegraph wires. The students took an enthusiastic part in the revolt. So serious was their revolt that many universities were forced to close down their colleges for months. Many students were put in jail and

21 NAI, Home Poll, F. No. 189/42, 1942; Fortnightly report for the month of January to December 1942.
many more had turned “permanent soldiers of the revolution”\(^\text{22}\) They busied themselves taking out processions, writing and distributing illegal news-sheets: hundred of these ‘patrikas’ came out all over the country.\(^\text{23}\) They also became couriers for the emerging underground networks. Workers too struck work. In Ahmadabad, the mills were closed for three and a half months, workers in Bombay stayed away from work for over a week following the 9 August arrests, in Jamshedpur there was a strike for thirteen days, workers in Ahmednagar and Poona were active for several months. The reaction to the arrests was most intense in Bihar and eastern U.P., where the movement attained the proportions of a rebellion.

BENARES

There was a historical tradition of rebellions in the modern district of Benares against the colonial rule. Raja Chait Singh’s rebellion against Warren Hastings in 1781 was the first sign of native’s grievances against British Administration in this region.\(^\text{24}\) Mangal Pandey, whose execution at Barackpur on April 8, 1857 sparked off the first war of independence, belonged to this region only.\(^\text{25}\) Rani Lakshmi Bai of Jhansi spent her childhood in Benares only. But the modern political activities in the region started after the partition of Bengal in 1905. Rash Behari Bose, Schindranath Sanyal, Bhupendranath Sanyal, Maneendranath Banerjee, Manmathnath Gupta, Surendra Bhattacharya, Devnarayin Mukherjee, Vinayak Rao Kaple, Girija Babu, Rajendra Lahiri, Sushil Lahiri and Chandrashekhar Azad actively contributed in organizing the radical freedom movement in Benares region.\(^\text{26}\) According to Sedition Enquiry Committee report the topography of Benares was helping secret organizations to flourish here. Benares became the centre for controlling revolutionary activities in U.P., Bengal, M.P. Vibhuti, Priyanath and Vishnu Ganesh Pingale were active workers for this purpose. A new direction was given by Shri Shantinarayan when he started a daily paper called ‘Swaraj’ from November 1907.\(^\text{27}\) ‘Aragami’ the daily paper form Kashi, started by Sachindranath Sanyal was a means of communication between the leader and the masses.

\(^{22}\) NMML, Underground documents of 1942 movement, F. No. 190 (LLXIX), Acc No. 647, S. No. 7, p. 5.
\(^{23}\) Bipan Chandra & others, op.cit., p. 461.
\(^{24}\) Bernard S. Cohn, An Anthropologist among the Historians and other Essays, (Delhi, 1987), p. 328.
\(^{27}\) Manmathnath Gupta, Bhartrivra Krantikari Andolan ka Itihas, (New Delhi, 1966) p. 97.
Later on Annie Besant, who had begun her political career in England as a proponent of Free thought, Radicalism, Fabianism and theosophy remained active in this part of U.P. She campaigned through her two papers – New India and Commonweal. Her Home Rule movement and National School Movement in the region motivated many people to join the organized national movement. Frequent congress movement and Gandhi’s visit gave new boost to people’s aspirations.

The Quit India movement in Benares region radiated from Benares Hindu University. The university closed its gates, even to the District Magistrate, and declared itself Free India and its university training corps the Indian National Army under command of one of the professors. The movement in this district began with a strike. On the 9th of August, a procession organized by the students of the B.H.U marched through the streets of the Benares city and terminated at Dashashwamedha ghat and after a little pause it was joined by the Congress workers and reached the town hall where it transformed into a meeting. The meeting was headed by Dr. K.N. Gairola, a teacher of B.H.U. He was an active Congress man and was commissioned by Jawaharlal Nehru to organize the students of B.H.U. for active participation in the Congress movement. He was assisted by Professor Radhye Shyam Sharma and Mr. Raj Narain Singh. He directed all the activities in Benares region till he was arrested under defence Rule 129 at Delhi Railway Station on the night of the 30th April 1943.

The Town Hall meeting decided to make the British administration impossible by dislocation of traffic, wire cutting, loot, incendiaries and other acts of sabotage. Their patriotism was seen as foolish acts by the British administration. They formed a party consisting of old and new congress men, students and ex-student of B.H.U. Benares Hindu School Benares, Kashi Vidya Peeth, teachers and other patriotic people of the region. They performed their work honestly. The meeting formed a struggle committee and Mr. Gairola was appointed as dictator by the students.

28 This was the final view of Sir Maurice Hallet, Governor, U.P. (Visitor, B.H.U. 1939-1944), cf. S.L. Dar and Somaskandan, History of the Benares Hindu University, (Varanasi, 1966), p. 730.
29 NAI, Home Poll, F. No. 18/8/42, 1942, p. 41.
30 Govind Sahai, 42 Rebellion (An authentic review of the great upheaval of 1942), (Delhi 147), p. 242
31 NAI, Home Poll, F. No. 3/66/43, 1943, p. 3.
The next day the sabotage programme was received by the people through a broadcast speech by Mr. L.S. Amery. He stated that

The congress leaders were arrested because they had been planning to foment strikes, not only in industry and commerce, but in the administration and law courts, schools and colleges, the interruption of traffic and public activity services, the cutting of telegraph and telephone wires, the picketing of troops and recruiting stations... The success of the proposed campaign would -paralyze not only the ordinary civil administration of India but her whole war effort. It would stop the output of munitions, the construction of aerodromes, and, above all, shelters against air attack; it would put an end to recruiting, it would immobilize the forces...34

The above listed activities were never authorized by the congress leadership in advance of August 8; Amery inadvertently lent them credibility as congress policy. The confusion and uncertainty felt by ordinary congressmen and congress-sympathizers were suddenly ended: Amery became, in A.C. Bhuyan’s apt formulation, ‘the chief instrument in broadcasting the supposed congress programme; what he said was avidly believed by the people.’35 Francis G. Hutchins, in the same vein, has noted that:

The menace Amery depicted was what many Indians subsequently attempted to create. What Amery said had been the congress plan was accepted as the congress plan by indignant demonstrators grouping for direction. Many wanted to take extreme measures; Amery’s charge gave them an excuse for taking them in the name of the Congress... what Amery claimed to have prevented, he instead helped to bring about.36

The people were so much incited that they were now determined to hoist the congress flag on every prominent institution. Processions were formed in every mohalla of the city. All the citizens were cooperating with the movement.37 The university students also took out huge processions. All the processions wended their way towards the criminal court to hoist the flag there. The police authorities were already present in the premises of the court. They stopped the processions in front of the court. A high

36 Francis G Hutchins, Spontaneous Revolution: The Quit India Movement. (Delhi, 1971) p. 272. Pyarelal was perhaps the first historian to suggest the importance of Amery’s speech; see his note on Kishorlal Majhuwala: Pyarelal Nair, Mahatma Gandhi, the Last Phase Ahmedabad, 1965, Vol. I, pp. 709-10, note 1.
37 Personal Interview with Dr. Biswanath Chatterjee on 16-09-2007, Benares, Dr Biswanath Chatterjee was a student in 1942 and took part in the Benares movement.
official shouted at the top of his voice, “All of you go back to your homes”. Do not try
to come forward. It will be disastrous. The ‘crowd’ retorted. “No we cannot go back
our non-violence does not teach us to turn back. You cannot stop a real non-violent
fighter in his onward-March, by bullets and lathi-charges”. This curt reply was
enough to infuriate the magistrate. He ordered lathi-charge. Mr. Teesdale was the first
man to strike at the people and was followed by others. For a long time the people
remained unmoved and dispersed only when the lathi-blows became unbearable.
When the news of the lathi-charge reached the city there was a great tension
throughout. The British repression failed to curb the rising tide and spirit of the people
it acted as catalyst for fresh national inspiration.38

On 11th August the crowd moved in the streets of Benares shouting the new slogans
“police men are our brothers, we are free”. A huge procession comprising people
from different walk of life, marched towards public buildings to hoist the flag.
Everyone was pulsating with new josh for winning the country’s freedom. Seeming the
bravery of the crowd, terror struck into the hearts of the authorities. The procession
reached the criminal court. Soldiers were already posted there but nobody dared to
open fire upon the crowd. Some of the young men climbed up to the top of the
building and hoisted the flag. The flag began to flutter in the sky and with it danced
the hearts of the people with joy.39 This incident is just like the storming of Bastille on
14th July 1789, by the revolutionary crowd of Paris during the French Revolution.

Acclaiming victory and in a triumphant mood the procession turned towards the civil
court to hoist the flag. The district administration was fully prepared to face the
crowd. An initial attempt to climb the court building was a failure. Then a lean and
thin student climbed at the top of the building with great difficulty. He fixed the tri-
colour on the top of the building to the joy of the multitudinous crowd standing
below. The tri-colour began to flutter. The crowd rent the air with shouts of victory to
the immense grief and shame of the police who hang their heads in shame. This was
the sign of the collapse of British administration in Benares. As per planning cutting
of communications and attacks on government buildings and property increased.

38 Govind Sahai, op.cit., p. 242.
39 Ibid. p. 243.
For showing the unity and fraternity, on the morning of 12th August, a delegation of students from the Benares University visited Allahabad University. Immediately afterwards a well-planned attack was made on the Kotwali, which was isolated by road blocks. At many places procession were lathi charged and fired upon. Now the movement started spreading in the rural areas of Benares. Attacks on rural railway stations, post offices and tahsils throughout the province were the general order of the day, particularly in the Benares region. Telegraph and Telephone communications along with railway communication were being widely disorganized.

On the 13th August it was resolved that the procession must terminate at the town hall passing through the Dashashwamedha ghat and the people got busy making preparations. The magistrate arrived in the meantime with the armed police and ordered a lathi-charge. Many persons were wounded, including Bindeswari Pathak and Rama Kant Misra, the organizers of the procession. The crowd was highly provoked and as true satyagrahis they sat on the road. At this movement of time the ruthless colonial police started stoning the public. The patience of the people had reached its pitch. They retaliate by hurling stones at the police. The police fired 26 rounds. Many were killed and many more got wounded.

The repressive measures adopted by the police incited the masses to retaliate against the colonial administration by indulging in planned sabotage activities as per the congress guide lines. All the telephone and telegraph wire poles were uprooted. Wires were cut, bringing the communication system to a standstill for many days. Rails and culverts on the Benares – Allahabad – Gaya – Patna railway lines were dismantled. Allahabad – Pratapgarh – Mirzapur – Jaunpur – Benares – Ghazipur – Azamgarh – Ballia – Gorakhpur railway routes were crippled by the crowd. All the station on the EIR were looted and burnt. The Grand Trunk road was breached at many places, and regularly barricaded. Aerodromes at Rajwari and Ibbatpur were damaged. At every place railway godowns, police stations and post-offices were plundered and burnt. The national flag was hoisted on every police station and

41 NAI, Home Poll, F. No. 3/30/42, 1942, p. 21; Thakur Prasad Singh, op.cit., p. 58.
42 Govind Sahai, Ibid. p. 244.
government building. At one or other places the police sub-inspectors themselves hoisted the national flag.43

By the 14th August many students from Benares spread into the rural areas. They helped the peasants to organize the movement. The movement was fully supported by the rural folk. By this time all the prominent leaders of the area went underground to evade the British repression. On August 14th a passenger train flying a congress flag arrived at Ballia full of students from Benares. They gave momentum to the movement there.44

Shiv Ram Pandey and Paras Ram Pandey were carrying the congress work secretly in rural area. They were directed by UP dictator, Kesho Dev Malaviya. The Congress party of Benares was well organized to lead the movement. The following were very active during the movement in the Benares region:

1) Thakur Das, organizer of the movement for Benares Division.
2) Damodar Das, Thatteri Bazar, organizer for the rural part of Benares District.
3) Satyendra Kumar Basu, Chaukhamba, Benares, organizer for Benares city.
4) Chaudhary Lakshmi Chand.
5) Dr. Miss Thungamma, with her brother’s daughter Sumati Bolar.
6) Rama Kant Misra
7) Professor Radhey Shyam of BHU
8) Dr. Gairola, B.H.U.
9) Vireshwar Iyer, Gandhi Ashram, Benares.
10) Mahabir Singh now at Gowagapur
11) Pandit Ram Surat Misra, now near Rajawadi Aerodrome area.
12) Pandit Jagat Narain Dubey, now in villages near Moghalsarai.
13) Markandy Singh, near Chaubeypur villages.45

Extracts from C.I.O. Lucknow’s daily report, dated 15-8-42, reported that Dr. Gairola sends batches of students to commit sabotage on government property in the city and neighbouring villages.46 Very serious damage was done to the B.N & N.W. Railway. At one time moth the broad gauge line on the E.I.R. form Benares to Lucknow via Partapgarh and via Jaunpur and Fyzabad were blocked by derailments. It was suspected that the organizers of the sabotage were students who got into touch with

43 Ibid. p. 244; File No. 18/8842, Ibid. p. 198; Mannmathnath Gupta, History of Indian Revolutionary Movement, (New Delhi, 1972), p. 177.
People's activities continued vigorously till 28 Augusts. By this time British Administration had intensified her repressive policy. Firings were reported from 25 places. — Chetganj, Teliaganj, Telia Crossing, Sonarpura, Harishchandra Ghat, Banaras Cantt. and Dashashwamedha ghat in urban areas and Keshopur, Dhanapur, Cholapur, Sakaldhia, Babatpur, Khalispur, Agarnath, Menasaur, Saiyd Raja, Railway crossing, South of Saiyid Raja, Dighavat, Moghalsarai, Lohadih and Lilrapur in rural areas. In spite of all these repression people’s activities continued. Sevapuri incident, Dhanapur police firing and Saiyid Raja firing in rural Benares need to be explained:

Sevapuri is a village of Varanasi Tahsil. During Quit India movement police came to loot the house of Yamuna Dube and misbehaved with women member of the family. This was the time when Algu Mishra (Village Baradiah), Gaya Prasad Dube (village Sujanganj) and Rajaram Sharma were booked for Cholapur dacoity case. They were lodged in District Zail. On the date of hearing they were tortured by British Inspector Tijdel Saheb on the order of then S.D.M. Shri Rajaram Singh.

Jawaharlal Nehru criticized the people of Benares for watching this incident.

Chandauli Tahsil of Benares was very famous for congress movement since 1921. Ram Surat Mishra of Mahuar village is called Gandhi of Chandauli. He started the Congress movement by 'charkha' activity in his village Mahuar in 1921. During Quit India movement a meeting was held under the leadership of Kamata Prasad Vidhyarthi on 10th August at Gurehu village. They decided to hoist the national flag on Chandauli Tahsil and Dhanapur Police Station. On 14th August flag was hoisted on Tahsil building and post-office. On 16 August a crowd of 8-10 thousand peasants and young marched to Dhanapur police station shouting slogan –Bharat Mata Ki Jai, Mahatma Ghandi ki Jai under the leadership of Kamata Prasad Vidhayarthi. They humbly asked the permission of thanedar for hoisting the National flag. But he flew in a rage and ordered the policemen to loot the markets. The people didn’t feel nervous about it. They remained firm in front of Thana. The thaneder ordered firing but Mr. Vidhayarthi hoisted the flag. Mahangu Singh (village Bhadahuan, Kamalpur), Hira Singh (village Hingutargarh), Raghunath Singh (village Manihari) died due to police

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47 R.F. Mudie, Chief Secretary to Government of United Provinces reported on August 19, 1942 to Mr. E. Conran-Smith, Secretary to the Government of India, Home Deptt., Simla. (File No. 18/8/42, ibid.)
48 Thakur Prasad Singh, Ibid., p. 58.
49 Ibid. p. 79.
50 Ibid. p. 82.
firing. Satyanarayan Singh, Vishvanath and Bhaggu Koeri got injured. Now the people got infuriated and over-powered sub-inspector Anwarul Haq and four other policemen and killed them. Some young men brought out all the belongings of the thanedar, heaped them into a pyre, put the dead bodies over it and set fire to it. Thus the thana was turned into a cremation ground.51 The Grand trunk road was cut up at several points to prevent the army from coming.

On the 28th August, under the leadership of a very eminent congress worker Jagat Narain Dube the people brought out a procession from the congress office at Saiyid Raja.52 Marching through the main streets of the city it reached the Ram Lila Maidan. Some Indian soldiers, without giving any previous warning, opened fire. Jagat Narain and other 15 workers received deep wounds. But the public did not lose heart. They went on with added courage and determination. The procession preceded towards the city under the leadership of Chandrika Sharma Nayak, a young man who had then assumed leadership. Marching through the eastern flank of the city it reached a place about half a mile from Basaha police station. The thanedar ordered firing. The policemen who were hiding in the premises and on the roof of the building kept on firing for two hours. The people adopted a marvelous strategy.53 They would lie down when there was firing and proceed when the firing ceased. The people were marching even after the sun set. The police was forced to stop firing and ran towards the wounded people, in order to take possession of them. The people had forestalled this eventuality. They had already carried away the wounded, numbering about 40 to 50 freedom fighters. The police could not lay their hands upon a single person. The police fired 860 rounds killing Shridhar of Chhatev village, and Ganesh Baba of Dighavat village. The leader of the procession Jagatnarayan Dube was badly injured. On this day the crowd also attacked the railway station.54

In Chakia areas Ramajiyavan Singh, Ram Anant Tripathi, Dwarika Singh, Sheikh Muhammad Umar, Qazi Shamsuddin and many other local leaders remained active

52 Govind Sahai, ibid, p. 245; Mannathnath Gupta, ibid. p. 177.  
throughout the movement. jalhupur, katchi area, jakhini, gangapur and motikot area were also active centres of the movement. markandey singh, mahadev singh, anantdev sharma, baijnathalal srivastava etc were important leaders in the above centres. all the underground local leaders – chandra shekhar asthana of kashi vidhayepeeth, baldeo vaidya, adhay prasad singh, baba ramaratan das, shivabaran sharma, rajaram sharma, indrajeet, ramanarayan mishra, prof radheshyam (bhu), dr. k.n. gairola (bhu), babu rajanarayan singh, rai ambika prasad singh, rajit pandey, jagamohan upadhyaya, gaya prasad etc used to take shelter in ghosila village in varanasi tahsil. 56

by the end of august all the important anti-british publications were suppressed in u.p. in benares region the place of aaj and hans was taken by ‘ranabheri’. ranabheri was a revolutionary paper whose location could not be traced by police. 57

in this series – ranadanka, ranachandi, chandika, defiance, redflame and jwalamukhi were published to encourage the masses for participation in the movement. people’s joshes against the british administration were reflected through the following lines of ‘ranadanka’ 58

\[
\text{Dil hai Arjun ka, Jigar Bhim ka, Angad ke kadam} \\
\text{Jo kisise na jhuke, wo sare magrur hain hum.}
\]

\text{We have stout heart, lungs and feet as of Arjun, Bheem and Angad (the heroic characters of Mahabharata and Ramayana)}

\text{We are head strong, can’t be foot down}

the great nationalists involved in the above publications were erudite. babu rao vishnu paradkar was famous editor of ranabheri. he used to write with hand only. besides him rama chandra verma, durga prasad khatri, dassubabu, santaashran mehrotra, damodar das shah and Vishvanath Sharma were active in the production of above writings. for the organizational purpose they took help form the book called “Germans at Bay”. thatheri bazar in benares was very active in all these activities.

55 Thakur Prasad Singh, Ibid. p. 87.
56 Ibid. p. 80.
58 Thakur Prasad Singh, op.cit., p. 51.
People involved in publication used to mix with the common and the down trodden people. Dalit never went against the movement.59

Due to the British repression many important local leaders went underground and continued their activities even after the month of August. Gurilla’s pledge60 encouraged youth, students, workers, peasants, traders and craftsmen to carry on with the movement. In the month of September and October the main peoples activities were no rent movements, attack on income tax offices, Patwari, Kanungo and land records. On 10th September Indira Gandhi and Firoz Gandhi, were arrested in Allahabad for taking part in the movement.61

Ambika Singh group was still active in rural part of Eastern U.P. They were mainly targeting police stations and government servants.62 The important sabotage activities done by the rural people in Benares area after the month of August are as follows.63

1. Derailment of goods Train near Railway Station Kapsethi on Benares-Partapgarh line on 21-10-42.
2. Removal on the same date of fish-plates, 11 miles from the above scene on the Benares-Partapgarh line.
3. Cutting of Telegraph wires between Rajwari and Aurhihar on 24-10-42.
4. Removal of fish-plates between Hardatpur and Rajatalab on 24-10-42.
5. Removal of fish-plates between Sarnath and Kadipur on 26-10-42.
6. Removal of fish-plates between Benares and Sarnath on 03-11-42.
7. Burning of Raja Talab railway station on 05-11-42.
8. Burning of seed department at village Churamnpur, Police station Rohania on 21-11-42.

Rana Harnam Singh, Inspector C.I.D. enquired all the above cases. According to his report many people were involved in these cases. But he could report about the following 21 villagers only64.

59 Babu Rao Vishm Paradkar of Varanasi was former President of the All-India Hindi Sahitya Sammelan and Chief Editor of Nationalist Hindi daily Aj which was founded by B. Shiv Prasad. He also edited ‘Sansar’ a Hindi daily and got Government warning for writing seditious article. When Aj was banned during Quit India Movement, he edited ‘Ranabheri’, a revolutionary underground paper whose location could not be traced by the police. Earlier he also edited ‘Bharat Mitra’ published from Calcutta. He was considered as the father of Hindi journalism. (S.P. Bhattacharjee (ed), Ibid. p. 455.
62 NAI, Home Poll, F. No. 18/10/42, p. 64.
63 UPSA, CID Home, BHU Sabotage case, F. No. RR-37 (8), 1942, p. 485.
Table 4.2: Persons involved in sabotage according to CID report

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S. No.</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Police station</th>
<th>Place</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Deo Murti Sharma</td>
<td>Phulpur</td>
<td>Benares</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Krishna Deo Vakil</td>
<td>Mirzamurad</td>
<td>Benares</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Ramadhar Singh</td>
<td>Mirzamurad</td>
<td>Benares</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Ram Kripal Singh</td>
<td>Rohania</td>
<td>Benares</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Jamna Dube</td>
<td>Rohania</td>
<td>Benares</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Basdeo Singh</td>
<td>Mirzamurad</td>
<td>Benares</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>Debi Singh</td>
<td>Mirzamurad</td>
<td>Benares</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>Mahadeo Singh</td>
<td>Rohania</td>
<td>Benares</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>Sharda Prasad Singh</td>
<td>Rohania</td>
<td>Benares</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.</td>
<td>Shkal Narain Singh</td>
<td>Rohania</td>
<td>Benares</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.</td>
<td>Jokhan Singh</td>
<td>Rohania</td>
<td>Benares</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.</td>
<td>Jata Shankar</td>
<td>Rohania</td>
<td>Benares</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13.</td>
<td>Ram Naresh Singh</td>
<td>Rohania</td>
<td>Benares</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14.</td>
<td>Kamta Prasad</td>
<td>Rohania</td>
<td>Benares</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15.</td>
<td>Parasnath</td>
<td>Ubhaon</td>
<td>Ballia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16.</td>
<td>Jagannath Pandey</td>
<td>Ubhaon</td>
<td>Ballia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17.</td>
<td>Baldeo Pande</td>
<td>Saidpur</td>
<td>Ghazipur</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18.</td>
<td>Swami</td>
<td>Ichawal</td>
<td>Ghazipur</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19.</td>
<td>Marjad Tewari</td>
<td>Nandganj</td>
<td>Ghazipur</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20.</td>
<td>Dharamdeo Singh</td>
<td>Nandganj</td>
<td>Ghazipur</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21.</td>
<td>Kamta Lal</td>
<td>Nandganj</td>
<td>Ghazipur</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Valorous activities of the people encouraged pandit Kesho Dev Malaviya, the propaganda secretary U.P. PCC, to issue a circular in which he asked the comrades to continue with the struggle because “our struggle is our”. He apprised the masses that the aim of the struggle was to establish the proletarian rule in the villages. Every institution which smacks British autocracy had to be dismantled. He asked the people to win over the police force. Villagers not cooperating with the movement had to be boycotted. No-rent campaign was encouraged among the peasants. Zamindars were asked not to pay the revenue. Hand-bills bearing the words “Englishmen go away” were to be posted throughout the cities. It was reiterated in the circular that it was no violence to get the vital communication suspended or to prevent the functioning of railway stations, tehsils and police stations, or to take possession of property found there. Everybody was warned not to travel by train after 15th of October. Finally masses were told neither kill anyone nor incite anyone to do so.

Ghazipur

The Quit India movement, launched on August 9, 1942, was acclaimed widely by the people of the district. On 10th August, the people of Ghazipur were stunned to learn the news of the arrest of the national and local leaders. The shopkeepers pulled down their shutters; the students abstained from classes; by the evening tension mounted as processions and meetings were held to condemn the official action. Detailed discussion of the proceedings of the public meeting at a secret conference of the leading politicians of the town decided the course of action. According to a congress history of the region, talk of ‘Quit India’ had been in the air for quite some time before this. B.H.U. students of the regions brought the news of people’s action done in Benares region. Ram Swarup Upadhya and Vasishth Narain Sharma brought the ‘programme’ from the provincial congress committee. The arrest of Vishawanath Sharma in Reotipur, a village linked by close kinship ties with Sherpur, helped in the rapid spread of the ‘Do or Die’ message in the Sherpur-Mohammedabad area of Ghazipur. The rumour that Gandhiji had declared ‘the independence of the country’ further surcharged the political atmosphere of the area.

By August all symbols of colonial government e.g. Government buildings, railway lines, railway station, post offices, police stations, Tahsil buildings, court, patwari’s offices, bridges and other means of communications were under attack. The people’s enthusiasm soared by the singing of Madhav Shukla’s poem:

*Sari duniya kanp uthegi, doshi dil hil jayega,*
*Aaj Bharati hunkaron se London bhi thahrayega*
*Aj parv hai swarajya ka, Gandhi yug ka mela hai,*
*utoh bharti jald naha lo swatantrata ki bela hai*

(Whole world will tremble and guilty heart will quiver,
Today with India’s clarion call, even London will tremble.
Today is celebration of Swrajya; it is Gandhi’s moment,
Get up Indians; take quick bath, its dawn of freedom)

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69 Ibid. pp. 132-3.
71 Ghazipur District Records.
72 Madhav Shukla was a local nationalist. Through his poem he aroused the Ghazipur masses against the British Rule, Saraju Tiwari, op.cit., 134.

110
The crowd carried attacks on Ghazipur ghat station, Gahmar railway station and Bhadaudra railway station. Telephone connection between Karamnasha River and Usian were badly damaged. On 12 August the crowd took over the congress office from the clutches of the police. Post-office was destroyed, electric and telephones wires were cut down. Kotwal Indrajeet Singh and C.I.D. inspector Rajendra Singh got injured in clashes. Students spearheaded revolutionary activities by taking control over all the railway stations between Saidpur and Ghazipur. Railway trains, thus freed of the Bureaucracy's control were utilized by the people for further attack on government property. On 13 August the crowd tried to hoist national flag on Kotawali, jail and court buildings. On 14 August students under the leadership of Baladan Pandey and Master Kamala Lal, General masses under leadership of Ram Pandey and Shambunath Pathak 'Mastana'; and women under the leadership of Vidhyadevi gherowed the Saidpur Tahsil and declared it independence. On this date, some people gained possession of the Nandganj railway station. On hearing this maze, the superintendent of police rushed to the sport and opened fire injuring hundreds and taking the lives of about 50 persons. By this time according to police point of view the situation in whole Ghazipur region became very serious. Looting of goods trains at Nandganj railway station continued for many days. Whole administration got paralysed due to the swelling of the crowd up to thirty thousand. Such type of incident also occurred at Badhwa, Gahmar, Saidpur-Bhitri; Sadat, Jamamia, Dildar nagar and other railway stations of the area. But heroism shown by the people of Sherpur village is really praiseworthy. On 14th August the brave villagers faced bullet wounds at Mohammadabad Railway station and at the Ghaushpur aerodrome. The leader of crowd, Yamuna Giri received deep wounds and was arrested. By night people of the area showed virility of capturing the aerodrome which was forcibly built on peasant's agricultural land.

On 15th of August the brave people of Ghazipur marched to the Kotwali, with the intention of hoisting the flag but it did not materialize due to colonial repressive
measures. Kutcharies (court), Tahsildar offices were attack. On this day the crowd shouting ‘Mahatma Gandhi ki jai’, had burnt the court of wards camp in Patkania village. On that very morning a Qurk Amin (local revenue official responsible for attachment proceedings) had attacked the cattle of certain low caste people. They retaliated by forcibly releasing the cattle.  

According to the congress History of the district, ‘Patkania village had become the Bardoli of Ghazipur in 1942’. This village launched the no-rent campaign in the area during Quit India movement. The village was declared ‘independent’. Here the procession was led by Vanshnarayan Mishra. People from Revatipur, Suhaval, Medinipur and many other villages had taken part in the action.

Dismantling of Thanas (Police Station)

After destroying and dislocating all the communication system, the primary department which attracted the people’s attention was the police station. The police station was seen as the centre of coercive apparatus of the colonial government in the locality. Peoples’ lion heartedness was shown when the tri-colour (the national flag) was hoisted almost on all thanas without much resistance. On 15 August, Sub-Inspector Mirza Hamidullah of Sadaat police station learnt that a crowd was burning and looting the local railway station. He attempted, with a small party to disperse the crowd, but was compelled to retreat to his police station. Then a crowd of 4,000 to 5,000 headed by Sevanand Sadhu and Jitan Pandey broke open the gate and entered the compound. The station officer opened fire and made an effort to escape but he and his companion were chased by the crowd and battered to death. The police station was set on fire and their dead bodies were thrown into it. Algu yadav got killed in police firing. Later 17 persons were convicted in connection with this case and awarded severe punishments. These included Jitan Pandey, Nanhaku Chamar, Akshaynavar Singh, Chamachandra Singh, Sarayu Sharma and others. Hardev Singh, Jagannath

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80 (Court of Sesison Judge, Ghazipur), Criminal Session Trial 62 (G) of 1943.
81 NAI, Home Poll, F. No. 3/16/42, 1942, pp. 210-2;
82 Saraju Tiwari, op.cit., p. 138.
Dube, Ramakrit Singh, Shivamarti Singh, Yamuna Singh, Umarao Singh and Kedar Singh evaded police arrest.\(^5\)

On 16\(^{th}\) August Chanapur and Quasimabad police stations were attacked by the crowd.\(^6\) In the Quasimabad thana it was reported that uniforms of policemen were seized and burnt amidst the full-throated slogans that the British raj was over and that the Gandhi raj had come to stay. Here Sarju Pandey was the leader of the action.\(^7\) On this date only, a huge meeting was held in Derhgawan. It was attended by men from Reotirpur, Sherpur, Patkania and numerous other villages. The swelling crowd enhanced the excitement of the people and they advanced to Nagesar while chanting nationalist slogans. From here they moved to Dildarnagar where they captured and destroyed the police station, railway stations and the post offices. This was the time when Vishwanath Singh Gahmari had led a large procession of students to the Kotwali (major police station) in Ghazipur, singing:

\[
\begin{align*}
Kya Bhagat Singh, Bhaiya, yun hi bhulaya jayaega? \\
Besh Kemat lal Kya yun hi lutaya jayega? \\
Kaat kar sar Jarge ka, aur phunk kar Inglend ko, \\
Nok par bhale ke Churchill ghumaya jayega. \\
Bank Imperial, Khajane, dak khane loot lo; \\
Kotwali aur Kachehri bhi jilaya jayega. \\
\end{align*}
\]

(Will Bhagat Singh be forgotten so easily, comrades? \\
Will our treasured Lal have been sacrificed for nothing? \\
We shall cut off (king) George’s head, and finish England with fire and sword, \\
And hoist Churchill aloft on the point of a spear. \\
Go out and loot the government banks, treasuries and post offices; \\
police stations and courts too will be razed to the ground.)

\textbf{Pinnacle of Non-violent Movement in Sherpur-Mohammadabad Region}

On 17\(^{th}\) August Dr. Shivpujan Rai of Sherpur village led the movement. The crowd was mainly composed of youths from Sherpur, Hariharpur and other nearby villages. They captured government post office and the lower court at Mohammadabad. All the papers in the lower court were destroyed and the communications in the area were damaged by cutting the wires.\(^8\) After all these actions, Shivpujan Rai asked the crowd to disperse and made an announcement that the national flag would be hoisted

\(^{5}\) Saraju Tiwari, op.cit., pp. 137-8.  
\(^{7}\) Sarju Pandey was the CSP leader who was one of the prominent organizers of the movement in eastern UP.  
\(^{8}\) Gyanendra Pandey (ed), op.cit., pp. 133-4.  
\(^{9}\) NAI, Home Poll, F. No. 18/8/42, 1942, p. 200.
on the tahsil building of Mohammadabad on 18th August. After this announcement the crowd grew tense because they wanted to hoist the flag on 17th itself. The leader convinced the crowd by highlighting the gospel of non-violence preached by the yugpurush (Mahatma Gandhi) for the last 20 years. Having courageously asking the British to Quit, now he was in Jail. His principles and his careful decision had to be translated into action. Dr. Shivpujan Rai declared — ‘we do not want victory at the cost of the principles of the Mahatma Gandhi.’ The crowd dispersed. The British official got alerted and increased the guards to meet the future eventualities.90 Heavy monsoon rain from the night of 17 August flooded the area in and around Sherpur. In spite of inclement weather, at the appointed hour on 18th August, Dr. Shivpujan Rai and twenty other young men of the village set out for Mohammadabad which was five to six miles away. Each one was carrying the tricolour and raising the heroic slogan for independence. The numbers swelled as groups of people joined in from villages on the way. When the crowd reached near Mohammadabad, Shivpujan Rai stopped to brief the crowd about the programme. He addressed the crowd:

The future of the nation is in your hands. You must do nothing which you may regret in time to come. You must all leave your lathis at this point and proceed with me in the manner of totally non-violent (Satyagrahis). To bring josh in the people’s mind he further said, ‘brave friends, this is the time of testing. The enemy’s guns are trained upon us. A ferocious police force is ready targeting us. We can anticipate a rain of bullets. This (police) demonstration has not been arranged simply in order to instill fear. Truly, the eyes of these men, who have turned traitors out of self-interest, are murderous. Non-violence is being tested by fire, and you must come out true. We cannot go there with the thirst for revenge in our hearts. It is not by killing but by dying that we shall attain our goal. The leader of the nation has ordered this. We cannot violate his wishes.91

According to Congress history of the region all weapons, including lathis and sticks except flag-sticks were thrown down. The leader urged them to refrain from throwing even a single stone: ‘remember that stone will wound me first.’92 On 18th August it happened to be bi-weekly market days as well as Mahavir (Hanuman) festival day. So the market was flooded with the local people. Such was the atmosphere when unarmed crowd shouting slogans: ‘police hamare bhai hai’ (policemen are our brothers), ‘karo va maro’ (Do or Die), ‘Bajrang Bali Ki Jai’ (Victory of Hanuman, a deity symbolizing strength), ‘Inquilab Zindabad’ (long live revolution), ‘Jamuna Gir ka badla lene’ (we shall take revenge of Jamuna gir), a young man of Sherpur, then

studying in the D.A.V. High school in Ghazipur city, who was seriously injured in police firing, and then arrested, in the attack on Ghauspur aerodrome a few days before this) and ‘Mahatma Gandhi ki Jai’ (Victory of Mahatma Gandhi) moved towards Mohammadabad police stations while marching, the nationalist youth sang:

\[\text{Shahidon ke khoon ka asar dekh lena; Mitayenge zalim ka ghar dekha lena; Jo Khud garaj goli chalayenge hum par, To Kadamon men unka hi sar dekhlena.}\]

(See the effects of the self-sacrifice of martyrs. We shall destroy the refuge of the tyrant. And if self-seekers should fire upon us, you will find their (Guillotined) heads at our feet)

Anticipating joint attack from the people on the tahsil office, the treasury and police station officials had evacuated the tahsil and the treasury which were located in the same area. All the officials took asylum in the police station. At the gate of the police station, the crowd was asked to disperse. When the unarmed freedom fighters refused to obey the orders, the petrified officers ordered indiscriminate firing, resulting in loss of several lives and serious injuries. The prominent men killed were: Dr. Shivpujan Rai, Varsha Narain Rai, Narain Rai, Matshekh Rai, Ram Badan Upadhyaya, Vashisht Rai and Raj Narain Rai.

**The Three Day Republic**

The heroic struggle of the people against the colonial power continued and by 19th August the whole of Ghazipur came under the control of the local people. They ran the government for three days (From August 19 to August 21, 1942). Although this was a very short span of time but the people breathed a sigh of relief at the end of tyranny of the British rule. In the District at every place, congress workers set up Panchayats for the maintenance of peace and the defence of the people. With the start of brutal British repression from 22nd August, many young leaders like Ram Sharma, Ramanandan Mishra, Jagan Prasad Rout, Niranjan Singh Sahastrabudhe, Satyendra Prasad Mishra, Akshayavar Singh, Ramanswaroop Pandey, Shankar Dayal Rai, Ram Swarup Upadhyaya, Ram Badan Rai, Kapildev Upadhyaya, Kedar Rai, Bashishth

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93 Ibid p. 50.
94 From the memorial stone in front of the Mohammadabad thana, Ghazipur; Ghazipur District Records; F. No. 18/8/42, Ibid. pp. 200-1; Shachi Chakravarty, op.cit., p. 218; Gyanendra Pandey (ed), op.cit., pp. 136-8; Sarju Tiwari, Ghazipur Ke Krantikari – Zila Swatantrata Senani Sangh, Ghazipur.
95 Ghazipur District Records; Uttar Pradesh District Gazetteers (Ghazipur), op.cit., p. 43; Govind Sahai, op.cit., p. 232.
Narayan Sharma, Vishwanath Upadhyaya and many other went underground to form the secret organization to propagate the people’s movement. After the fleeing from Hazaribagh jail, Jaiprakash Narayan also joined the movement. After the arrest of Harparasad Singh, the well-known CSP leader, the leadership of the movement in Ghazipur passed on to Akshayavar Singh. There was no dearth of zeal despite the official crackdown. To strengthen the organizational set up of the underground movement, many departments were created. The Department of publicity and Propaganda was placed in charge of Shankar Dayal Rai, the Department of Finance was assigned to Akshayavar Singh, Vishwanath Upadhyaya and Ram Swroop Pandey were given the responsibility of organization and discipline. They worked very hard and established links between the Ghazipur activists and the central underground action committee for coordination and direction. Publication of Samardoot again started on regular basis. Cyclostyled machines which were used for the publication were being secretly shifted from village to village and even to the houses of prostitutes. Gulab Seth, Shiv Bahal Rai, Baleswar Rai, Ramdutt Rai, Prashuram Rai, Jayanarayan Shukla, Shivadutt Rai, Surendra Tiwari and many other nationalists were involved in such activities. In spite of government ruthless oppression against the movement, Vashisth Narain Sharma and Kapil Dev Upadhyay collected considerable funds for the movement at Calcutta. After the arrest of Akshayavar Singh, Ram Swaroop Upadhyaya was made director of the movement. Publication of the following Ranabheri gave new strength to the people of Ghazipur so that they might not stop the movement under the British pressure:

(O heroes! The battle drums are beaten, wear the saffron; sacrifice your lives at the altar of the mother-nation. There stands the enemy, with beastly ego, here are the weaponless, with wish for death. The Gardner is cruelly plucking yet to blossom flowers; we will decorate the bouquet with our sacrifices. In this surging youth, you have to gift your youth, we have to show the enemies our conviction. In this isolated

97 Krishnanand Rai, op.cit., pp. 139-45; Shachi Chakravarty, op.cit., p. 235.
98 Sarju Tiwari, op.cit., p. 146.
99 Ibid., pp. 146-7.
AZAMGARH

The permutation and combination of modern polity started in Azamgarh in 1801 when this part of Eastern UP came under the influence of East India Company. Status of Gautam Thakur of Menhanagar, Bisen Rajput of Athisi and Bais Thakur of Palna were adversely affected. 1857 gave them opportunity to retaliate against the colonial power. The hero of 1857 in Eastern UP, Maulvi Ahmad Shah of Faizabad had a great impact in Azamgarh. Raja Beni Madhav of Atraulia, Idrat Jahan and his son Muzaffar Jahan and Thakur Pargan Singh of Heera Patti had helped him during the first war of independence. On June 3rd at 10 pm, Azamgarh was declared free and Indian flag was hoisted under the leadership of Bandhu Singh. Management of administration was taken over by Thakur Prithvipal Singh. Beside these leaders Mir Mansab Ali of Sarai Mir, Jagabandhan Singh of Mohabatpur, Rama Tilak Das, Motilal Ahir, Kunjan Singh, Bhairav Singh, Ramagulam Singh and many other continued their efforts to make India free from the colonial clutch.

The congress movement in the area got strengthened with the visit of Mahatma Gandhi on October 3, 1929. In 1930’s a 7 member district council was created. It included Sitaram Asthana (Chairman District Congress Committee), Thakur Suryanath Singh (Pradhan Mantri District Congress Committee), Bhavani Prasad, Mukund Rai Sharma, Ramasundar Singh, Shivapher Singh andRamashankar Ravat. Local leaders like Vishram Rai and Shivram Rai brought congress movement to the rural part of Azamgarh. By 1942, the whole district had become politically very active.

With the launch of Quit India movement, the whole district of Azamgarh came under the grip of people’s actions. Although all the colonial symbols came under the attack but communication and the Thanas remained the principal target of the crowd. With the interruption of communications, the district was cut off from the rest part of country. The magnitudes of people’s actions are well known in the words of R.H.

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100 Swantartrata Sangram Ke Sainik, Azamgarh, Vol. 27, Information Department, UP, (Lucknow), P.K.
102 NAI, Home Poll, F. No. 3/34/42, 1942, p. 214

117
Niblett.\textsuperscript{103} He writes, "there was trouble everywhere; but chiefly in the eastern part of the district. In the police circles of Madhuban and Tarwa, the civil authority was in fact completely subverted, and the police could not function beyond the limits of their headquarters.\textsuperscript{104}

On the 9\textsuperscript{th} August, 1942, the District Congress office at Azamgarh, was seized, and several arrests were made, the principal one being that of Mr. Sita Ram Asthana, M.L.A.\textsuperscript{105} Sachitanand Pandey was also taken into custody. Many active members went into the villages to avoid arrest. On 10\textsuperscript{th} August, the news of the arrest of the Congress leaders provoked the masses and they organized strikes and took out processions, and thus gave expression to their resentment against the colonial power.\textsuperscript{106} All the educational institutions except Shibli George Intermediate College took part in the strike. On this date only Uma Shankar Misra of Captainganj, Krishna Madhav Lal of Nevada and Lallan Prasad Verma of Azamgarh were arrested.\textsuperscript{107} All these arrests created a tense situation in the district and those leaders who were still unsuspected secretly initiated a move to develop a system for a coordinated action. Procession and demonstration continued on 11 August also. Many students sat in front of the Jail gate to pressurize the administration for the release of Mr. Sita Ram Asthana.\textsuperscript{108} By the evening of 11\textsuperscript{th} August, Algu Rai Shastri,\textsuperscript{109} a congress leader of the district, who had gone to Bombay to attend the congress session, traveled back to his home town at Amila in Azamgarh. Here, he met a few student leaders and elucidated the congress programme to them.\textsuperscript{110} Even before an action-plan could be chalked out, Chandrakshekhar Asthana arrived on 12 August from Kashi Vidyapeeth. He brought with him copies of a leaflet which explained the limits of 'Do or Die' and reinforced what Algu Rai Shastri had earlier explained.

\textsuperscript{103} R.H. Niblett (Anglo-Indian Officer) was District Magistrate and Collector of Azamgarh during Quit India movement. He had joined this post on 1\textsuperscript{st} December, 1939.


\textsuperscript{105} Ibid. p. 4.

\textsuperscript{106} Govind Sahai, op.cit., p. 234.

\textsuperscript{107} Swatantrata Sangram Ke Sainik. Vol. 27, Azamgarh district, Information Department UP, (Lucknow).

\textsuperscript{108} R.H. Niblett, op.cit., p.4.

\textsuperscript{109} Pt. Algu Ram (Rai) Shastri, M.L.A. was the leading congressman of Azamgarh district (R.H. Niblett, op.cit., P. 44).

\textsuperscript{110} Swantantra Sangram ke Sainik, op.cit., p. ph; Shachi Chakravarty, op.cit., p. 185.
According British secret report Algu Rai Shastri was very important congress leader of UP. Congressite brothers from different provinces came to him for seeking instruction for the Quit India movements. He issued the following instructions.

1. It is the paramount duty of the residents of province to hold meetings and processions and broadcast the congress programme to the masses by means of posters.
2. Every effort should be made to paralyse the present machinery of the government.
3. Every province on one appointed time and date should make a declaration of independence.
4. After the declaration of independence necessary instructions should be issued in each province according to circumstances.
5. The programme should be followed through its various phases and terminate by the end of September.
6. The people of UP are ready to make every sacrifice for the rest of their Indian brethren. In this province we are going to make a declaration of independence very soon. Afterwards we shall take steps to occupy the offices of different departments.\(^{111}\)

In the light of above instructions a meeting was held on 12 August at 9 pm in hostel of Srikrishna Pathashala. Arjun Singh, Shivram Rai, Akshayvar Shastri, Phulabadan Singh, Ramadhan Ram, Ramadahar and others were present in the meeting.\(^{112}\) It was unanimously agreed that efforts should be made to mobilize the people in the tahsils and mandals to revolt simultaneously in the whole district so that roots and branches of imperialism in Azamgarh could be axed at one go, rendering it impossible for the government machinery to carry out any fire brigade action.

After the meeting they moved towards their respective tahsils to put their plan into action. Arjun Singh, Raghavaram Singh, Ramadhanaram, Banarasi Sonar, and Shiv Kumar Rai along with their groups of students moved towards the Sagri tahsil in the north. Their aim was to capture Raunapar and Jiyanpur police post. After that their aim was to capture post office and Tahsil office. Another group under Ramadhari Rai and Govind Rai started for the Rani Ki Sarai. A third group under Markande Singh, Muktinath Rai, Awadhnath Singh, Matabhikh Singh, Ramasamar Singh and others moved to west. Their aim was destroy post office in Atrauliya areas. After that they planned to capture Kandharpur, Maharajganj and Atraulia police station.

A fourth group headed by Hari Prasad Gupta, Shyam Rathi Singh and Vindhyachal Singh traveled towards Muhammadabad and Khurhat. Lalganj Tahsil was under Suryabansha Puri. Akshayavar Singh, Lal Shastri and Jagannath Rai were assigned

\(^{111}\) Extract from N.W.F.P. CID special diary, No-26 (NAI, Home Poll, F. No. 3/16/42, 1942, p. 37).
\(^{112}\) Swatantrata Sangram ke Sainik, op.cit., p. ph Shachi Chakravarty, op.cit., p. 186.
the important tahsil of Ghosi in which the Madhuban police station was situated. People's actions continued in the form of demonstrations and strikes in the urban areas. But an interesting feature of the movement in Azamgarh was that bigger events took place in rural areas.

People's Raj in Madhuban

Madhuban is the most remote circle in Azamgarh district. It is wedged in between Gorakhpur and Ballia districts. It is void of metalled roads and railways. The nearest railway stations are at Ghosi (10 miles) and Bilthara Road (14 miles), the nearest metalled road at Ghosi. This area had a strong congress base and was also notorious for agrarian troubles.

On 13th August, the thanedar of Madhuban police station raided the congress mandal office at Dubari. Tricolour was removed and the whole office was razed to ground. The people of the region took it very seriously. Such as the situation when Jagannath Rai reached there with the district programme. To discuss the future course of action a meeting was held on 13 August at Gobarahi village. Most of the congress workers of the Ghosi tahsil took part in the meeting. It was unanimously decided that the Ghosi tahsil ought to be captured by 15 August. Messages of this intent were immediately sent to all the neighbouring villages. It was on one such mission to Bibipur that Gorakhnath Acharya was arrested on 14 August morning. As the news of his arrest spread, a number of men assembled at Dubari village with the object of releasing him from police custody. But district administration hurriedly packed him to Azamgarh.

On the 14th August itself, several stations on the Benares–Bhatni railway were sacked. Among them were kidihdapur and Bilthara road, which both lie in Ballia district, though only a few miles from Azamgarh border. The same day, news reached both

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113 King Emperor vs. Ramdas Kahar and others, Criminal Sessions Trial No. 17 of 1944, Criminal Records Room, Collectorate, Azamgarh; Thakur Prasad Singh (ed), op.cit., pp. ph & b.
115 Swatantrata Sangram ke Saink, op. cit. p.m. shachi chakravarty, op.cit., p. 188.
116 Ibid.
117 R.H. Niblett, op.cit., p. 10
Ghosi and Madhuban that the ‘groups’ responsible for these incidents would make an advance on those thanas before proceeding further west.\(^{118}\)

The magnitude of people’s activities in the area forced R.H. Niblett (District Magistrate & Collector) to tackle the situation himself. On hearing that an attack on Madhuban Thana had been planned, the collector got together a small garrison flung himself into the police station on 15\(^{th}\) August with a circle inspector, two sub-inspectors, two under officers, 17 constables and 42 chowkidars.\(^{119}\)

People’s activity started early on the morning of 15 August. It was decided to destroy whatever vestiges of government remained on the way to Madhuban. Ramvriksh Chaube, Shankar Verma, Thakur Tiwari, Ramapati Tiwari, and others attacked the Rampur post office and destroyed all the government papers. They didn’t touch the money-orders. The post-master was asked to make immediate delivery of the same. In order to proclaim the Independence, they hoisted the tricolour on the building.\(^{120}\)

The jubilant crowd then went to Fatehpur village and destroyed the post-office. Before reaching Madhuban they damage the liquor shop in Kataghar and cattle – court near Madhuban.\(^{121}\) Stage by stage the people gained in courage and fortitude. They proceeded to other villages and reached a well in village Basti where already 10,000 peasants had collected together and were just returning from Bilthara Road station with 650 bags of sugar as their booty. They prepared sambats and enjoyed it to the full and went on.\(^{122}\) The crowd reached Madhuban at about 2 pm via the Bilauli road. This group also included the freedom fighters from Maniar village in the Ballia district almost 24 miles away.\(^{123}\) Shortly afterwards they were joined by the Dubari crowd of about 3000 men moving in shiftily from the east under the leadership of Mangal Dev Rishi and Ram Sunder Pandey. From the west arrived the group form Bibipur, Surajpur, Dohrighat and Ghosi. By the time the crowd reached Madhuban it was 65,000 strong.\(^{124}\) The procession stopped before the thana. Ramabriksh Chaube,
Mangal Dev Shastri (B.H.U. Student) and Sundar Dev Pandey entered the Thana and addressing the authority said, “British rule is over. People’s Raj has been established. Now surrender to the people. We will hoist national flag on the Thana.” The emissaries were told that their request could not be complied with especially at a time when the collector was himself present.

The procession with courage and determination proceeded towards the Thana with the battle cry of ‘Vande Mataram’, ‘Inquilab Zindabad’ and ‘Gandhi ji ki Jai’. The authorities were fully prepared to face the crowd. When they saw a wave of men and women sweeping towards them, they ordered firing which was ceaseless and indiscriminate. The brave fighters for freedom were not prepared to be cowed down and bend their knees. They marched on at a time when people were stepping forward to get control of the thana to hoist the National Flag, they received intelligence that military troops armed with machine guns were coming to suppress them. At this point crowd began to disperse, vowing vengeance in the future. According to Niblett version, not less than 119 rounds (86 from Muskets, 27 from revolvers, 6 from private guns) were effectively fired. An eyewitness claimed that three guns continued firing for half an hour without a pause and subsequently, firing continued till 6 pm in the evening. The battle lasted for over two hours in which according to non-official estimates, the casualties consisted of three hundred dead and five to six hundred seriously injured. Officially, it was stated that merely thirty were dead and fifty wounded. Some of the dead heroes were identified as Bhagavat Singh from Kuchai, Lachhan Pati Koeri from Neveda, Ramanakshatra Pandey from Kandharpur, Sombhar Garerira and Kumar Manghi from Mirtatpur, Hanif Darji from Gurambha, Banavari Yadav from Kataghar, Ramapati Tiwari from Tinahri, Munni Kunwar from Tighara, Shivadhan Harijan from Paharipur, Bandhu Lonia from Machhila, Ragnath Bhar from Takia, and others.

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125 R.H. Niblett, op.cit., p. 13; Govind Sahai, op.cit., pp. 235-36; Swatantrata Sangram ke Sainik, op.cit.,
127 The Daily Sansar, 21 October 1945.
128 Hallet Papers, Hallet to Linlithgow, 21 August 1942.
129 NAI, Home Poll, Hallet to linlithgow, 21 August 1942.
130 Swantarata Sangram ke Sainik, op.cit., p. 2.
Most of the dead and wounded were carried away by friends and relatives. The first to fall was Ram Nachhatr Tewari and then Ramapati Tiwari. The group from the east left soon after they were repelled, but those from the west stayed on longer as they came from neighbouring villages. During the night following the attack on Madhuban a secret meeting was held at Fatehpur where the possibility of renewing the attack on the thana was discussed. On 16th August, two men on autocycles (one of them appeared to be a revolutionary) had gone across to Ballia, to collect both men and fire arms. Niblett and other virtually remained in a state of blockade for two days. He could come out with the help of local friendly Zamindar and reached Azamgarh on the night of 17th August.

The battle of Madhuban was for Niblett no less an event than the wars being fought at the various frontiers of the empire, for the defence of the British system of justice, law and order! Linlithgow who in his noting felt that Niblett’s account read ‘like a tale of 1857’.

People’s Activities in Tarwa

The episode at Tarwa can be deconstructed on the basis of two famous cases; special trial no. 1 of 1942, King Emperor versus Sheo Nath Singh and 45 others in the courts of the special judge, B.R. James, ICS, Azamgarh and criminal sessions trial no 13 of 142, King Emperor versus Kedar Nath Dikshit and 18 others in the court of the sessions Judge V.G. Oak, ICS, Azamgarh. These cases were related to the looting of the police stations and the wrongful confinement of the police staff.

The Tarwa police station in cut off from the world by two streams to the north and one to the south; and during the monsoon the intervening country is intersected by pools and rivulets. Eight miles to the east but unconnected with it by any sort of road, is Sadat police station in Gazipur District. From the report of the Tarwa case it appears that on 14 August 1942, a crowd came to the thana with a congress flag and

132 Ibid.
133 Linlithgow's marginal note on Hallett to Linlithgow, 21 August 1942, Linlithgow papers.
134 King Emperor vs, Sheo Nath Singh and others, special Trial No. 1 of 1942 and King Emperor vs. Kedar Nath Dikshit, Criminal Sessions Trial No. 13 of 1942 (Criminal Records Room, Collectorate, Azamgarh)
135 R.H. Niblett, op.cit., p. 32.
fixed it in the compound. The significance of the congress flag was enormous in Thekma, Bhira, Pakari, Dobhanv, Mehanagar, Meh-Najpur, Bansgaon, Kamahria and other villages of Lalganj Tahsil. Local leader Suryabansh Puri had campaigned in this part of Azamgarh, highlighting the importance of congress movement.\textsuperscript{136} People of the area were surging with national feelings. Meanwhile at Tarwa Police station when the crowd disappeared, the sub-inspector, who had earlier offered no resistance to the crowd, took the flag down and sent it to Azamgarh. On 15 August a large crowd sacked the Sadaat Police Station in Ghazipur district. Here station officer was also killed. This news reached Tarwa on 16 August. The sub-inspector Shah Jahan Bakht of Tarwa Thana made elaborate arrangements within his means to organize a resistance, if necessary, to a fresh assault on the police – station.

On 17 August, volunteers of Lalgunj Tahsil organized a meeting at Bhukkhu Singh’s House at Raunapar.\textsuperscript{137} Local leaders like Tej Bahadur Singh, Gajraj Singh, Chandrika Singh and others took part in the meeting. It was decided in the meeting that Tarwa Thana would be captured on 18\textsuperscript{th} August. The procession started under the leadership of Tej Bahadur Singh.\textsuperscript{138} The procession stopped in front of Tarwa Thana. Tej Bahadur Singh moved ahead to talk to the sub-inspector. He declared the intention to take possession of all government property and to obliterate all traced of British authority. He demanded that the uniforms and arms be surrendered immediately with threat that unless they were delivered, the Tarwa police would meet the same fate as the police of Sadaat.\textsuperscript{139} Both the arms and the uniforms were surrendered. Even the keys of the police stations were seized and the police party was demonstratively marched towards the thana building, where they were kept in confinement.\textsuperscript{140} A .12 bore gun and a revolver belonging to the sub-inspector were returned to him when it was discovered that they were not entered on the list of government property.\textsuperscript{141} Rest everything was set on fire. Thus the thana came under the full possession of the freedom fighters and the national flag went high up in the sky.

\textsuperscript{136} Swantar Sangram ke Sainik. op.cit., p. h.
\textsuperscript{137} Ibid. p. ksh.
\textsuperscript{138} According to Shachi Chakravarty there were 3000 people in the procession (p. 198) Govind Sahai writes that there were 78,000 persons in the procession (p. 236.)
\textsuperscript{139} The Daily Sansar. 21 October 1945.
\textsuperscript{140} King Emperor vs Kedar Nath Singh, op. cit.
\textsuperscript{141} NAI, Home poll, F. No. 18/9/42, 1942, p. 239.
The public was not yet satisfied. A court was set up to try its prisoners. One illiterate aged peasant, named Sri Jaddubhar Nayak, was made the Chief Justice. As the Thanedar Shah Jahan Bakht was brought into his presence, the Chief Justice assuring him of every protection said, “Brother thanedar no harm will come to you. Don’t be afraid.” He was externed. Even today people recall with pride and admiration the integrity and sense of justice that characterized the chief justice Sri Jaddubhar Nayak. After that, crowd moved towards the post office. The postmaster and some postmen on duty did not resist. The nationalists turned the post office into congress office, white papers and furnitures were destroyed and cash and stamps removed.

KAJHA KAND (Incident of Kajha)

Kajha was one of the few English Zamindari estates remaining in Azamgarh. It was confiscated from its single Rajput owners, who were notorious for their turbulence. In early nineteenth century the Zamindari was sold to an English Indigo planter. In the 1940s, the owner of the property was an old spinster named Miss Sturmer who was an absentee, living in Calcutta. The estate was run by her unpopular manager, Simon Finch. In 1940, men from Kajha had petitioned the district authorities against certain new demands made by the manager and his agents, and had organized themselves into a peasants’ association to resist acts of oppression.

The Fatehpur Mandal Political conference was held in Kajha, in April 1942, with much fanfare and a large attendance. Swami Satyanand, one of the most respected congress leaders of the district, presided, and several other district congress leaders were present. Resolution were passed against the oppressive acts of the manager, and a petition detailing these was sent to Miss Sturmer in Calcutta. But in the months that followed, a war of attrition continued between the estate authorities and the local people. The molestation of women and attempts to assault them had become a common practice with the manager. The Kisans had been tolerating this nuisance for...
decades. By 1942 their exasperation was at its zenith. The oppressed people were resolved to retaliate now. On 16th August, 7 to 8 thousand people attacked the Sturmer Estate Bungalow and took away everything it contained.147

Peoples Activities in Mau, Phulpur and other Regions

People’s activities started in Mau with the arrest of local leader Ramapalat Rai.148 From August 10 to 13 there was complete hartal in the city. The boys of Jiwan Ram High School took active part in strike and demonstration through out the town.149 Mau is in direct Railway communication with Benares. Alarming information was coming in of happenings there and at Allahabad. Like Azamgarh, Mau was cut off from telegraphic communication with the rest of the world.150 On the 14th August, students formed a procession and marched towards the station. The police made a lathicharge, which provoked the people immensely.151 The same day in the evening, a strong crowd led by B. Radha Raman, a leading merchant of the town and a member of the notified area committee, attacked the notified area office and set fire to the record room.152 Dwandwara railway station is very near to Mau. On the 14th August a huge public meeting was held near the station in the noon. At the same time a train full of students from B.H.U. arrived at the station. Then came the British force that fired on the unarmed and peaceful people.153 On 15th August, the crowd marched towards the thana with the intention of hoisting the national flag. At first the crowed was lathicharged and then the police opened fire. Dukhiram Katuva and Kalika Prasad were killed and many persons were severely wounded.154

The Phulpur tahsil has a sizeable number of low caste people. The people in the area organized and brought within the direction of the Harijan Gurukul Gandhi Gram.155 On 13 August the railway tracks between Phulpur and Sarai Mir were removed and cables were destroyed. On the night of 19 August crucial culverts on the Azamgarh --

147 Govind Sahai, op.cit., p. 238; NAI, Home Poll F. No. 18/9/42, 1942, p.; 239; R.H. Niblett, op.cit., p. 29.
148 Swatantrata Sangram ke Sainik, op.cit., p. sh.
150 Ibid.
151 Govind Sahai, op.cit., p. 237.
155 Shachi Chakravary, op.cit., p. 205.
Faizabad railway line were damaged. Defying the administrative order the local leader Ram Charitra Singh called for a political meeting which was held in the village Khampur in close proximity to the district Board’s inspection house under the auspices of the congress.¹⁵⁶ The local junior magistrate declared the meeting unlawful. The crowd however did not disperse and the army fired. Devanath Pandey was killed on the spot and his brother Devaraj Pandey was injured.¹⁵⁷ Those who refused to move away were arrested. They included Ram Charitra Singh, Phul Badan singh, Ram Soorat pandey, Ram Naik tiwari, Gopi Koeri, Ram das Koeri, Angad Singh, Satyanarayan Singh and others. Phul Badan Singh singing rashtriya songs was let off, while the others were sentenced to six months rigorous imprisonment.¹⁵⁸ It was the remnants of this group which were responsible for the Khurason Road Station incident that was also located in the same region.

After the Madhuban episode, Niblett reached Mau on 17th August, on his way back to Azamgarh. There he received an S.O.S. call from the station officer of Indara station. Here the crowd had successfully damaged the station, hoisted the congress flag and were on their way back. Niblett reached there with the army contingent and fired incessantly at the motley crowd which was moving away. This led to the death of the 25 year old teacher, Harihar Singh of Mahuar village.¹⁵⁹ Within a few days, the people of the area were able to blow up an American aircraft which was stationed at the make-shift aerodrome in the area.¹⁶⁰ People’s action continued in the region even after the British repression had started. During the peak of the movement between 15 August and 22 August, the district was rocked by many incidents and each had an element of planning.

Table 4.3: Statements of the casualties and damage done in the people's movement from August 9 to Sept 15, 1942.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>I- Police actions against the people</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Firing by police</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Casualties to rebels</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

¹⁵⁶ Ibid. p. 204.
¹⁵⁷ Swatantrata Sangram ke Sainik, Ibid. pp. tr. gya.
¹⁶⁰ The Daily Sansar, 24 October, 1945.
3. Casualties in police personnel
- 3 sub-inspectors, 1 head constable and 8 constables murdered.
- 1 Sub-inspector and 5 constables accidentally killed.
- 1 sub-inspector committed suicide
- 1 deputy superintendent of police, 2 inspectors and 7 other ranks severely injured.
- A very large number slightly injured

4. Damage to police stations and outposts
- 6 entirely destroyed and 15 attacked and damaged.

5. Losses of police fire-arms
- 13 revolvers, 75 muskets and unknown number of rounds of ammunition.

6. Recoveries of police fire-arms
- 1 revolver, 40 muskets and 13 rounds ammunition.

II. Railways
7. Stations attacked and damaged
- 72 (15 burned)

8. Derailments
- 12

9. Sabotage to permanent way
- 91 instances (recorded by G.R. Police)

10. Sabotage to telephone and telegraph wires
- 101 cases recorded by G.R. Police

11. Casualties to personnel
- 3 (2 killed derailments and 1 by explosion)
- 1 accidentally wounded by gunfire.
- 3 slightly injured

III. Post and Telegraphs
12. Post offices destroyed
- 9

13. Post offices attacked
- 87

14. Telephone and Telegraph wires cut and damaged
- 310

15. Letter boxes damaged
- 56

16. Postmen attacked
- 33

Source: confidential, D-O NO. F-2/9/42
(NAI, Home Poll, F. No. 18/9/42, 1942, p. 49)

Table 4.4: Showing the destruction of land records in United Provinces

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>Records with patwaris, kanungos and officers in the field</th>
<th>Records in record rooms</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Partially destroyed</td>
<td>Wholly destroyed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meerut</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>14 villages</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bareilly</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pilibhit</td>
<td>1 village</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benares</td>
<td>44 villages</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3 villages (papers with A.R.O.)</td>
<td>3 villages</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mirzapur</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>5 villages</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allahabad</td>
<td>1 village (khasra and naqsha)</td>
<td>3 villages</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jalunpur</td>
<td>1 Kanungo’s paper</td>
<td>39 villages</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jaunpur</td>
<td>1 Kanungo’s paper</td>
<td>11 villages</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ghazipur</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1 village</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ballia</td>
<td>*about 130 villages</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gorakhpur</td>
<td>27 villages</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basti</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Azamgarh</td>
<td>2 villages</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Women of the Region in the Movement:

Annie Besant, Sarojini Naidu and Nellie Sen Gupta were important women faces of the Congress movement at National level. With the coming of Gandhi, women activities in national movement got a fillip. They were now seen as participants in demonstrations, satyagrahis, and boycotts organizers. Women were now encouraged to be more active in the constructive programme. They were to be the moral force in the movement by staying away from the struggle for power and by transforming people’s hearts through their quiet, non-violent struggle.¹⁶¹

In UP Swarup Rani Nehru, Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit, Sucheta Kripalini, Hajra Begum, (one of the first Indian members of the communist party of Great Britain), Purnima Banerji (sister of Aruna Asaf Ali), Rameshwari Nehru, Uma Nehru, Kamala Nehru and others were very active during freedom struggle. Educational institution like Benares Hindu University, Kashi Vidyapeeth, Sevashram and Kanya Pathshala in Benares region and Allahabad University and Prayag Mahila Vidhyapeeth played a vital role in rousing political unconsciousness among the women folk in Eastern UP. These have been already discussed in chapter III.

Here the focus will be mainly on the activities done by women during Quit India movement in Eastern U.P. Srimati Gouri Devi, Srimati Kishori Devi, Srimati Lakshmi, Srimati Sajjan Devi Mahnot, Srimati Seva Mitra and Srimati Giribala Devi were prominent women faces of Benares during the national uprising.¹⁶² In Sonarpura

¹⁶¹ “Gandhi on Women,” Economic and Political Weekly (henceforth EPW), 12 October 1985, p. 1757; Visalakshi Menon, op.cit., p. 18.
area of Benares when mounted British soldiers arrived to repress the people’s movement, then Giribala came forward to stop them by shouting sarcastically.\textsuperscript{163}

\begin{quote}
Hamar shil, Hmar Lora, Hamar Bhangedar, Dant ka gora
\end{quote}

[My grinding slab, my Muller, O! Whiteman, with that you break my teeth]

In the beginning of the movement girl students took Khadi bhandar under their possession in Benares. Previously it had been occupied by the police. The police tried to resist the girls but failed.\textsuperscript{164} On 12\textsuperscript{th} August 1942, a delegation from the Benares Hindu University visited Allahabad University. Immediately afterwards a well-planned attack was made on Kotwali, Kutchery and other district offices. In all these activities girl students were at the forefront.\textsuperscript{165} While taking part in small children procession at Allahabad, Mrs. Indira Gandhi and Firoz Gandhi were arrested. Mrs. Indira Gandhi lay inside three rings formed by small boys and women. On being taken up by the British forces she struggled and caused a considerable fuss. This was the time when following slogans were raised in Eastern U.P.:\textsuperscript{166}

\begin{itemize}
  \item[a)] ‘From the jails comes the cry, up with the revolution’ and ‘the police are our brothers’
  \item[b)] You brutes, the English, ‘Quit India’, and John Bull quit India’.
\end{itemize}

On 15\textsuperscript{th} August 1942, following prominent women leaders of India, issued a ‘public statement’ criticizing the repressive policy of colonial government and appealing to the women of India to take active part in the peoples movement:\textsuperscript{167}

Sd/- 1. Rajkumari Amrit Kaur, Patron, All-India Women’s Conference
Sd/- 2. Mrs. M.E. Cousins, Patron, A.I.W.C.
Sd/- 3. Shrimati Rameshwari Nehru Patron, A.I.W.C.
Sd/- 4. Shrimati Kamaladevi, Vice – President, A.I.W.C.
Sd/- 5. Mrs Asaf Ali Vice-President, A.I.W.C.
Sd/- 6. Mrs. Hansa Mehta Member, Franchise & Citizenship, A.I.W.C.
Sd/- 7. Shrimati Ammun Swaminathan Vice President, A.I.W.C.
Sd/- 8. Mrs. Shardaben Mehta

\textsuperscript{163} Personal Interview with Dr. Prembrat Dasgupta on 17-19-07 at Ravindra Puri (Benares). He was a ‘char anna’ member of congress and took part in the movement.
\textsuperscript{164} Govind Sahai, op.cit., p. 243
\textsuperscript{165} N.A.I. Home Poll, F. No. 18/8/42, pp. 41-42.
\textsuperscript{166} N.A.I., Home Poll, F. No. 18/9/42, 1942, p. 240.
\textsuperscript{167} N.A.I., Home Poll, F. No. 3/87/1942, 1942, P.1.
Standing Committee Member, A.I.W.C

Mrs Urmila Mehta

Mrs. Jaishri Raiji

Mrs. Kusum Sayani,
St. Committee Member, A.I.W.C.

15-8-1942

Some parts of the statement are as follows:  

- We wish to enter our emphatic protest against uncivilized methods which the provincial governments have employed in their attempts to suppress popular demonstrations. All over the country the police and military authorities have fired indiscriminately on unarmed crowds of men and women, dispersed them by teargas attacks or lathi charges resulting in bloodshed and acute physical suffering and thereby filled every Indian heart with deep resentment. Such repression has resulted in an outburst of public wrath causing destruction of property.

- By isolating Mahatma Gandhi and other members of the working committee and refusing them the privilege usually enjoyed by political prisoners of their status, we feel the government behaving in an unjustifiably arbitrary manner. Such behaviour can only increase the bitter feelings of the people.

- We fervently hope that every important section of the people will exert its influence to force the government to adopt civilized methods of setting the problem of India’s political demand. In particular, we urge the women of India to exert their energies towards this end.

In Benares and in Allahabad, the students created a difficult situation, for the administration. Women students under the leadership of Kumari Snehlata hoisted the national flag on Benares Kutchery (court). In Benares particularly almost all telegraph and telephone wires in the city were cut and all communication with outside places has ceased. Early morning on 19th August, the Benares Hindu University was taken over by the government forces. It was taken over with a stiff opposition especially from the women hostellers.

There was no through running of the trains on the main line between Benares and Lucknow Via Jhangai. Women leadership was at peak when Jhangai station was looted and burnt by the crowd led by a girl. Damage between Benares and Partapgarh had been extensive. In spite of the brutal repressive measure of the

168 Ibid.
171 NAI, Home Poll, F. No. 3/16/42, 1942, p. 15.
government six women attempted a procession in Benares in the month of December, 1942.\textsuperscript{172}

The bravery manifested by the sister-in-law Shri Algu Rai Shastri at Amila in Azamgarh region was remarkable. The valour and courage shown by her, brought glory to the entire womanhood during Quit India movement. When British repression started in Eastern UP, some soldiers broke into the house, collected the entire paraphernalia, heaped it in the court-yard and were about to set fire to it when the lady rushed forward, jumped on the heap and roaring like a lioness said: “Burn me first and then the appendages.” The white soldiers were startled and were completely unnerved on hearing such brave words. They could not even touch what they had collected. Even then some of them tried to decamp with some of the articles. She could not tolerate the open loot. She leapt forward and recovered all the articles. Thus overpowered, the soldiers went off with their heads hung down with shame.\textsuperscript{173}

Processions were taken out to protest against the British repressive policy in Ghazipur, Ballia and in Meerut in the last week of September. At least 515 people were arrested. Out of 80 students who were arrested in Meerut, 61 were girls.\textsuperscript{174} When Kesho Dev Malviya, one of the Chief congress organizers of UP and Dr. Gairola of Benares were arrested then protect March were taken out through out the provinces. While protesting their arrest 51 girls were arrested in Cownpore.\textsuperscript{175} In spite of colonial repressions, people’s movement continued till they achieved the freedom. At the national level, no one can deny the heroic role played by Mrs. Aruna Asaf Ali and Usha Mehta. Secret intelligence reports show that role of female element was very strong at the provincial level also.\textsuperscript{176}

\textbf{LOWER CASTE AND DALIT}

Eastern UP is represented by almost all the caste found in North India. Lower castes formed the bulk of the population. It has been discussed in Chapter II. Lower caste of people along with Rajput, Brahmin and Bhumihar took active part in Quit India

\textsuperscript{172} NAI, Home Poll, F. No. 18/12/42, 1942, p. 62.
\textsuperscript{173} Govind Sahai, op.cit., pp. 238-39.
\textsuperscript{174} N.A.I., Home Poll, F. No. 18/9/42, 1942, p. 54.
\textsuperscript{175} N.A.I., Home poll F. No. 18/10/42, p. 70.
\textsuperscript{176} N.A.I. Home Poll, F. No. 3/38/42, 1942, p. 3.
movement in Benares, Ghazipur, and Azamgarh. They took part in the movement as congress volunteers.\textsuperscript{177} Gandhian textile labour associations which, was employing mainly Harijans went on strike to take part in Quit India movement, in spite of government threat of cancellation of contract.\textsuperscript{178}

In Benares regions Sri Nirohu Bhar, Sri Ram, Sri Chauthi Noniya, Sri Pancham Ram and Sri Phakere became victims of police firing during the Quit India movement. Sri Maikhoo Lohar, Sri Ram Charitra Koiri, Sri Saryu Sonar, Sri Ramnath Koiri, Sir Nifikir Ahir, Sir Bandhan Ahir, Sir Ram Prasad Mallah and Sri Khedubin got a deterrent term of imprisonment for life for effectively contributing to the activities connected with the ‘Quit India’ movement. Sri Sita Ram and Sri Bhaggu Koeri got injured due to police firing.\textsuperscript{179} Besides these Sri Baldeo Singh Yadav, Sri Baran Teli, Sri Chhiganu Chamar, Sir Bhrignath Koeri, Sri Jagrup Dusadh, Sri Kanhaiya Lal Viswakarma, Sri Lotwan Bind, Sri Parloo Teli and many others lower caste peoples contributed in Quit India movement and went to jail several times.\textsuperscript{180}

British officials believed that in Ghazipur regions local Ahir castes were involved in most of the sabotage activities during the movement.\textsuperscript{181} On 15\textsuperscript{th} August, Ghauspur aerodrome was attacked by the crowd. The principal accused in this case were Chandra Deo Ahir, Nathu Ahir, Tarjan Ahir, Mahanand Rai, Vindhyachal Rai, Ramsurat Rai, Ram Parshad, Badri Rai, Ram Brichch Kandu, Anand Lal, Shyam Narain Rai and Hari Sunder Kandu exhibiting a combination of different caste and class groups.\textsuperscript{182} In Bardah Thana Lal Chand, Mangal, Barmi Pasi, Nanhu Pasi, Ramdhari Pasi, Kushia Pasi and Pattu Pasi were jointly charged with an attempt to damage a culvert in the village Bijauli on the night of 18-19 August.\textsuperscript{183} In Sherpur – Mohammadabad areas also there was active participation from the lower caste and class people in the movement. Sri Khedan Ahir, Sri Ram Naresh Singh Yadava, Sri Mannu Singh Yadav, Sri Baijnath Khatik, Sri Balram Prasad Chaurasia, Sri Baran

\textsuperscript{177} N.A.I., Home Poll (I), F. No. 3/34/42, 1942, p. 234.
\textsuperscript{178} Q.S.P.C.P., 1942, S-21, op. cit. p. 19.
\textsuperscript{180} Ibid. pp. 449-585.
\textsuperscript{181} N.A.I. Home Poll (9), F. No. 3/16/42, 1942, p. 212.
\textsuperscript{183} King Emperor vs. Lal Chand and others, case no. 71/17 of 1942, Criminal Recrods Room, Collectorate, Ghazipur.
Aheer, Sri Budha Bind, Sir Hukum Aheer, Sri Jagmal Ram, Sri Jangi Bhar, Sri Khanoo Ram Bind, Sri Laggan Teli, Sri Nankoo Bind, Sri Shiv Nandan Bhar, Sri Shiv Nath Bhar, Sri Sukhu Chamar, Sri Udai Aheer and many other freedom fighter from the social exclusive group participated in the movement.

Azamgarh has a sizeable number of low caste people. Harijan Gurukul Gandhi Gram institution was actively working for the upliftment of the Harijan. In this process they also got national consciousness. Whole institution was destroyed and reduces to ashes during Quit India movement.\(^{184}\) The revolutionary uproar in Azamgarh, which is largely an agricultural district exhibited a remarkable example of organized popular wrath against imperialism there were many occasions of mass action lasting for days, defying the presence of armed colonial forces. It is in this context that the operations in Madhuban, Indara Junction, Mau, Tarwa, Kajha, Pipridih and Phulpur stand out prominently in the historic struggle with all the attendant attributes.\(^{185}\) Out of these Madhuban, Tarwa and Kajha were the most massive demonstration in Azamgarh during the movement. They followed a build-up several days and large parties came in from all directions to join in these demonstrations.\(^{186}\) A wide spectrum of the rural castes and classes were represented in the demonstrations. The list of those killed in Madhuban police firing is like a mini-directory of castes living in Eastern U.P. of the 15 nationalists who died here, 2 were Brahmans, 2 Rajputs, 1 Ahir, 1 Koeri, 1 Kandu, 1 Bhar, 1 Majhi, 1 Lonia, 1 Garriya, 1 Darzi (a muslim), 1 Harijan and 2 unidentified.\(^{187}\) Most of them are from the Subaltern section of the society. Jail and police records are important sources for the identification of participants in any event. Following provides a caste wise distribution of those who were convicted for their part in Madhuban, Tarwa and Kajha incidents.

Table 4.5: Caste-wise distribution of convicts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Caste</th>
<th>Madhuban</th>
<th>Tarwa</th>
<th>Kajha</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rajput</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brahman</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bhumihar</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bania</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ahir</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Koeri</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\(^{184}\) Swatantrata Sangram Ke Sainik, op. cit. p. sh.

\(^{185}\) R.H. Niblett has called it as 'The Defence of Madhuban'.

\(^{186}\) Gyanendra Pandey (ed), op. cit. p. 151.

\(^{187}\) Swatantrata Sangram Ke Sainik, op. cit., p. L.
Besides these Dukhi Katua, Buddhu Bhar, Sannu Dhobi, Abhilakh Kewat, Kamla Prasad Vishvakarma, Kunju Kahar, Kodai Kewat, Kangal Ram, Gopi Koeri, Nanku Pasi, Paltu Pasi, Bande Pasi, Mohan Koeri, Mohan Harijan, Mangal Pasi, Vishwanath Arya, Snal Bhar, and many others lower castes people strengthened movement.188

**Muslim Participation**

Gandhi devoted the bulk of his speech after the passage of the ‘Quit India’ resolution to a discussion of Hindu-Muslim relation. It was the question which was uppermost in his heart. To him it was a matter of life and death. According to him, “India is without doubt the homeland of all Mussalman inhabiting this country. Every Mussalman should therefore cooperate in the fight for India’s freedom...If we Hindus and Mussalman means to achieve a heart unity... we must first unite in the effort to be free from the shackles of this empire.” Churchill and Jinnah tried to keep Muslim masses away from the Quit India movement they couldn’t get success.189 Prior to the meeting of working committee of the All India Muslim League which was to be held on 16th gust 1942 in Bombay, Jinnah appealed to the Muslims to keep completely aloof from the Quit India Movement.190 Muslim community and organization of Eastern UP which believes in composite and secular society came forward to take part in Quit India movement. The participation of lower class Muslim was very prominent.191 Jamat-ul-ulema had declared its entire support for the freedom movement. Thousand of Muslim were failed and got martyrs in the cause of India’s

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188 Thakur Prasad Singh (ed), op. cit. pp. 1-94.
190 NAI, Home Poll (I), F. NO. 17/1/42, 1942, p. 4.
freedom. This organization warned Churchill and Amery that Muslim of India would not forgive them for insulting Indian Muslims by speaking a lie that they were against the freedom movement. By hiding the reality R.F. Mudie (Chief secretary to Government, United Provinces) wrote to Sir Richard Tottenham (Secretary to the Government of India, Home department, New Delhi) that, “the attitude of Muslims continues to be neutral, though there are signs that their neutrality may become more benevolent. In Azamgarh, pro-congress posters emanating from the Jamiat-ul-ulema were countered by a Muslim League poster and in Lucknow some members of the League are said to resent the Leagues’ policy.” Many times government officials tried to prove that those Muslim who were taking part in the movement in Eastern UP, were none other than communists.

In Benares and Azamgarh there are many weaving centre where lower castes Muslims family works. They wholeheartedly supported the movement by going on strikes whenever demanded by the national and regional leaders. The All-India Momin Conference the Chief association of the large body of Muslim weavers stayed on the congress side all the way up to independence. Throughout the movement, both the community (Hindu and Muslim) maintained a healthy atmosphere. The government on the other hand had expected communal trouble. The government officials tried hard to widen the gulf between the two communities by a policy of community fining and calling it “collective fining”. The correspondent of the New York Times reported after a survey of the movement that throughout the nation there was a firm determination to avoid communal strike in connection with the independence movement. There was not a single case of communal strife in and revolutionaries everywhere showed respect to Muslim sentiments and vise versa. The argument that the Muslims did not take part in the ‘open rebellion’ of 1942 is so misleading that it needs to be contradicted in the light of baffling attitude adopted by the leadership.

193 Ibid.
196 New York Time, August 9, 1942.
The truth is that Muslims like other communities of India did play a prominent part in 1942.198

Besides national Muslim leaders, Professor U. A. Asrani, Sri Niyamullah, Sri Ahmad, Sri Alamgir Khan, Sri Alijan, Sri Alim Khan, Sri Alir Jama, Sri fulman khan, Sri Furat, Sri Marhoom, Sri Roshan, Sri Suleman Khan, Sri Vajiv Ali, Sri Wali Muhammad, Haneef Darji, Shamshul Shah Fakir, Abdul Huq, Muhamamd Sattar, Muhammad Shah Daftari, Muhammad Shafi Khan, Muhammad Haneef and Samsher Ahmad were prominent Muslim faces in Eastern UP who with their followers took active part to strengthen the Quit India Movement.199

Thus we can see that every section of society came forward to form a single front to make national movements a Holistic one. The element biding all of them was the ideology of nationalism and age long community affinity. Stephen Henningham failed to see this and he called the movement as ‘the Dual Revolt’.200 On the other hand Max Harcourt201 identified the movement with the Kisan only which is not right. The movement drew in a broad spectrum of the population giving it a composite and holistic look.

Nature of Leadership and Social Composition of the Movement

After the First World War (1914-18), the congress grew into a well-knit organization reaching out far and wide into the whole country and leading its masses in all their woes and activities, economic, social and political. Through experience and foresight, it evolved a new technique of non-violent, non-cooperation, fast and satyagraha, to achieve the object most clear to the heart of the people of India e.g. Liberation from imperialist bondage. With the above tools Gandhi tried to manage all the risk of the masses from the colonial power. He provided the congress organization with a mighty leadership that stood it in times of stress and dangers in 1920-21, 1930-34 and again in 1940-41. Through these struggles and the gains and victories that followed in their

198 Govind Sahai, op. cit., p. 444.
200 Stephen Henningham, “Quit India in Bihar and The Eastern United Provinces: The Dual Revolt”, in Ranajit Guha (ed), Subaltern Studies II. (Delhi, 1983), pp. 130-179.
wake, the masses of India had grown optimistic and had faith and confidence in their leadership and also in the ultimate triumph of their cause.

By 1942 there was already a psychic revolt against the ruling power, which had proved its incompetence to save the lives and property for those over whom it ruled. It failed to delivery any goods to the masses despite its pompous platitudes and grotesque claim of trusteeship. Long British exploitation of the Indian masses had created crises of volcano which was waiting to erupt at any moment. Every Indian had become a live bomb and these bombs only needed to burst in the form of people’s actions. The zero hour came the moment; the congress leadership at the national and provincial levels was arrested in one sweep on the morning of 9th August 1942. With this the well planned and organized war between the oppressor and the oppressed, between the ruler and the ruled, between the exploiter and the exploited broke out. This situation released wondrous new forces which brought about an untold psychological revolution and unity in the mind of India masses. War time economic deterioration further enhanced their anti-British attitude. Forgetting all barriers of caste, creed, class, religion, community and political affiliation, they came on one platform e.g. Gandhi-Congress platform to paralyse the British administrative system.

Strikes, procession, demonstration, meetings and charkha activities were the outcome of people’s movement in Benares, Ghazipur and Azamgarh. Peasants were encouraged for no-rents movement and Zamindars were asked for no-revenue movement. All these were done to cripple the civil authority in Eastern U.P. Interruption and destruction of traffic e.g. Railways and roadways, cutting of telephone and telegraph wires, uprooting of railway tracks and telegraph poles, destruction of bridges, culverts and aerodrome were reported on large scale from Benares, Ghazipur and Azamgarh regions of Eastern UP. These activities were done by the revolutionary – crowd, just to check the spread of the British authority.

District Administrative offices, Tahsil buildings, courts, post-offices, court of ward camp civil area, liquor shops and other symbols of colonial government were attacked because these were the representative of micro-physical presence of the British Administrative institutions. Police-stations, police chowky, Kotwali, Land records

offices, Patwari and Zamindars were attacked because they were the representatives of British coercive forces and exploitation. Francis Hutchins has described the Quit India movement as a “spontaneous revolution.” He failed to understand the organizational capacity of the masses and their relationship with the Indian political parties e.g. Indian National Congress, congress socialist party, the left group and other nationalist factions. In a secret telegram Linlithgow wrote to Amery on 22nd August, 1942:

> While the ordinary features of spontaneous disturbances e.g. looting are largely absent, evidence of an intelligently preconcerted plan is growing and it is becoming increasingly difficult to attribute events to purely local and unco-ordinated direction.

The movement of this magnitude can’t start all of a sudden. The nature and shape of the struggle was thoroughly discussed between Gandhi and the members of the working committee and communicated by the letter to the provincial organizers. The Governor – General in council was aware of all these planning’s.

Since 1920’s Gandhi had trained the Indian masses for such mass movement. Each successive wave of mass movement e.g. Non-cooperation movement of 1920-22, civil disobedience movement of 1930-32, individual Satyagraha of 1940-41 had heightened their nationalist and political consciousness. The dimension of the 1942 movement was unique and surpassed all earlier experiences. The people’s movement in Benares, Ghazipur and Azamgarh marked the climatic phase of planned and organised nationalist struggle. Every activity of the people was well under the framework of the organizational structure provided by the congress and supported by the congress socialist and the communists. Everywhere people came out with a single goal, that is, to liberate the nation from the tyranny of colonial yoke.

Some of the following reporting’s explaining the organizational and planning dimensions of the Quit India movement:

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205 Q.S.P.C. P-21, 1942, op. cit. p. 32.
206 Ibid. p. 46.
207 N.A.I., Home Poll, F. NO. 18/8/42, pp. 198-200; N.A.I., Home Poll, F. No. 3/16/42, p. 17.
No one taking the country as a whole can possibly resist the conclusion that there has been a very considerable degree of organization.

The outbreaks were almost simultaneous and the damage done so extensive as to make it incredible that it could have been done on the spur of the movement without special implements and previous preparations and in many instances the manner in which it was done displayed a great deal of technical knowledge.

The whole picture was much more one of calculated venom directed against selected objectives than of indignant people hitting out indiscriminately at the nearest object in blind resentment at the arrest of their leaders.

The unanimity with which closely similar objectives have been singled out for attack in different parts of the country, though doubtless caused partially by emulation of exploits all too faithfully recorded by the sensational press clearly points to a considerable degree of organization, and that too organization of a nature that could hardly have sprung into existence in a few days.  

Above analyses clearly show that Quit India movement was a well planned and organized people’s movement against the colonial repressive rule. The movement got strengthened due to community unity in Eastern U.P. To call it spontaneous is just to negate the existence of any political organization and their struggle against the colonial rule.

The government of India published eighty-seven pages pamphlet entitled: “Congress responsibility for the disturbances 1942-43,” To prove the responsibility of the congress under the leadership of Gandhi for the Quit India movement. The government felt that their intelligence system failed to assess the planning and organization of the movement. They couldn’t visualize the role played by the others.

It was a holistic movement based on community unity with a common urge to free the country form the British authority. Cutting across class, caste, religion, gender, occupation and political affiliation, every section of the society in Eastern UP took part in the movement. But the active participants were from the middle and the lower classes. In the French revolution the popular elements composing the Sans-culottes were the peasants, craftsmen, journeymen and the labourers who actively

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210 N.A. I., Home Poll F. No. kw.3/31/42, 1942, p. 10.
212 George Rude, The Crowd in the French Revolution, (oxford, 1959), p. 5 & 256. The term sans-culottes was used during French Revolution, for small property-owners and wage-earners of town and countryside. It also included the small shopkeepers, petty traders, craftsmen, journeymen, labourers,
participated in the revolution. Here also in Eastern UP, the peasants, students, teachers, unemployed youth, labours, doctor, advocates, small income groups like small shop-keepers, milk vendors, street hawkers, petty traders, workers in small establishments and villager became the backbone of the movement. The most remarkable feature of the movement was the massive participation of the cultivating class and the youth of the society. The projected notion of the ‘criminal villages and student combine’ was in fact the peasant bases aided by student’s romanticism. It was perfect example of a ‘United front’ of peasantry and intelligentsia against the ‘empire’. The share of the peasant’s participation can be gauged by the extent of collective fines imposed on them as repressive measure. Better class people eg. Marwaris, Parwars, Jains, sevants of local bodies and upper middle class supported the movement financially and morally.

Behind all these there was a group of active revolutionaries belonging to the extreme “left” wing of the congress, ie. Congress socialist party and forward Bloc and such organization as the Hindustan Red Army. These revolutionaries, working singly or in groups, were very active in organising the populace and giving publicity to the congress programme. When the government repression started, a number of C.S.P. leaders and other left-wigners escaped and went underground to be joined by Royists and the communists. Officially the communist party was not with the congress but its rank and file had taken active part in the movement in Eastern UP.

Repressive measures of the colonial government

Since the inceptions of colonial rule in 1757, the British officials had pursued an oppressive policy towards the Indian subjects. The severity of their doings reached its worst and furthest limit during the period of Quit India Movement. Even the doings perpetrated by the British government on the Indian people after 1857, during the

vagrants and city poor. They are also called Menu People (the common people). Contemporaries tended to limit its application to the more politically actie among these classes or to extend it to the ‘popular’ leaders, from whatever social class they might be drawn. Historians have frequently used the term in this political sense.

216 Ibid.
Punjab Martial Law in 1919, and the civil disobedience movement of 1930 and 1932, pale into faint colours as compared to the grim severity of the British doings of 1942-43. The British officials adopted Burke and Taine policy towards India’s people’s movement in 1942.

The British government had started preparing to curb any mass movement since 1940 itself. And after the Cripp’s departure Viceroy’s council had chalked a plan to halt any Congress movement. Under this plan there was a provision of pre-emptive strike on the part of the government, involving the arrest of the entire congress leadership – both at the AICC and the PCC level – on the eve of the movement. Special measures were adopted with the help of ordinances by Linlithgow government to suppress the movement. It has been discussed in detail in Chapter III of my research. Police were given incentives of enhanced dearness and war allowances. They were given special power before they were sent to curb the people’s movement. Before the start of Quit India movement, all the district magistrates were given special instructions, ‘how to tackle the congress movement.’

The claim of Amery that he would crush the movement with the police and criminal courts has been proved utterly false. Everywhere the British Government has had to rely on white troops who thought nothing of shooting defenceless persons, setting whole villages on fire, looting and plundering houses and perpetrating inhuman atrocities on helpless men, women, and children. It was said that the British government hated Nazism and yet that same government had employed Nazi methods to crush the spirit of independence in India.

The real face and the policy of British government towards India were known to all the Indian masses on September 10, 1942, when the British Prime Minister, Mr. Winston Churchill said in the House of Commons:

220 Burke and Taine are famous Historians who adopted a distinctly hostile attitude to the French Revolution (George Rude, op. cit. p.1).
221 NAI, Home Poll, F. No. 18/9/42; Max Harcourt, op. cit. p. 342
222 NAI, Home Poll, F. No. 3/33/42, 1942, pp. 94-95.
224 NAI, Home Poll (I), F. No. 3/75/42, 1942, p. 2.
225 NAI, Home Poll (I), F. No. 3/70/42, 1942, p. 19.
The Indian congress party does not represent all India. It does not represent the majority of the people of India. It does not even represent the Hindu masses. It is a political organisation built around a party machine and sustained by certain manufacturing and financial interests. Outside that party and fundamentally opposed to it are 90 million Muslims in British India, who have their rights of self-expression, 50 million depressed classes or untouchables as they are called, because they are supposed to defile their Hindu co-religionist by their presence or by their shadow, and 95 million subjects of the princes of India with whom we are bound by treaty. In all, 235 millions in these three large groupings alone, out of about 390 million in all India this takes no account of large elements among Hindus, Sikhs and Christians in British India who deplore the present policy of the congress party. It is necessary that these main facts should not be overlooked here or abroad, because no comprehension of the Indian problem or of the relations between India and Britain is possible without the recognition of these basic data.226

This statement professedly made on behalf of the British Cabinet, showed his attitude to the congress and its demands. Two months later, Mr. Winston Churchill made his intention towards India even more plain by telling parliament:

We have not entered this war for profit or expansion, but only for honour and to do our duty in defending right. Let me, however, make this clear. We mean to hold our own. I have not become the king's first minister to preside over the liquidation of the British Empire.227

In such background of British thinking no Indian can expect any justice from the colonial government. The main aim of the government was to retain India as its colony by hook or crook.

**BENARES:**

The “Sir Maurice Hallett” regime in UP was the most notorious regime in India at that time. He was considered to be a past master in the art of putting down the people’s movement. His measures were copied by the authorities in the other provinces also. Soon after his assuming power as the governor of UP, he had made the prophetic announcement that, “those who are not with us are against us.”228 The congress and its movement was an eye–sore to Hallett. He was prepared to throw the whole weight of his power to shipwreck it. ‘Iron and blood’, was his pet slogan. The police and the army was given free hand229 to perpetrate heinous crimes with impunity in order to over awe the innocent freedom loving people and to stabilize the tottering structure of British imperialism in India.

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226 QSPCP, 1942, op. cit. p. 47; India uncreconciled: A documented history of Indian political events from the crisis of August 1942 to October 1943, by The Hindustan Times, (New Delhi, 1943), p. 22.
227 Ibid.
229 Vinita Damodaran, op. cit. p. 241.

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143
Detention without trial, public humiliations, indiscriminate torture of the people without any compunction and other measures of barbarity had become the order of the day. Even wearing the Khaddar was a crime and no part of UP was an exception to it. Every action of the nationalists were ruthlessly retaliated by the British forces. At the height of the people’s movement, the equivalent of some 57 ½ battalions of troops were employed. They destroyed village after village. They raped women, pregnant women and murdered them in cold blood to remove the proof of their crime. They had shot down innocent people, women and even children were not spared. "First fire and then inquire" had been the motto of the British forces. Collective fines, floggings, organized goondaism by the high officials of the government themselves had become the order of the day.

The inhuman barbarities of British authorities had widened the gulf between the people and the agent of the British regime. The brutal repression by military and armed police units helped in the spreading of the nationalist message and deepening the hatred of the British by the masses in Eastern UP.

The high magnitude of the movement in eastern UP forced the British government to adopt special repressive measures against the unarmed masses. His Excellency appointed Mr. M.H.B. Nethersole, D.S.O.I.C.S., an additional secretary to government and sent him to Benares with wide powers to restore order in the eastern districts where communications between this part of UP and the headquarters of government had been completely cut off. Mr. Marsh – Smith, Director of Civil Defence was appointed an additional Deputy inspector general of police and was sent with Mr. Nethersole.

R.F. Mudie (Chief Secretary to United Provinces) reported to E. Conran – Smith (Secretary to the government of India, Home deptt.) on 19th August 1942 that All –
India Congress Committee, the All-India Congress working committee, all provincial, district, town, city, tahsil, ward and mandal committees or other bodies, directing or controlling, in whole or in part, the activities of the Indian National Congress or the Congress socialist party were declared unlawful under section 16 of the Indian criminal Law amendment Act, 1908. The offices of all district, town, city, Tahsil, ward, sub-divisional and Mandal congress committees, the office of the all-India congress committee, Allahabad and Swaraj Bhawan, Allahabad, the offices of the United Provinces provincial Congress committee, Lucknow and the offices of the congress socialist party, United provinces, Lucknow were declared as places used for the purposes of an unlawful association, under section 17-A of the Indian Criminal Law Amendment Act.  

The publication of newspapers were ceased or censored. The books and leaflets entitled *End of Axis Powers*, *Cure, Angels, Preservation, Prophecy, The Time is at Hand, Thy Kingdom Come, The Atonement of God and Man, The New Creation and Victory*, emanating from the watch Bible and Tract society were proscribed under rule 40 (1) of the Defence of India Rules. The Penalties (Enhancement) ordinance was first applied to Cownpore and then extended to Allahabad, Benares, Agra and Meerut and finally to the whole province. The British government did everything in their power to strangle the civil liberties of the masses. The slightest act of disobedience of orders prohibiting meetings processions etc was put down not with lathi but rifle and revolver.

On 9th August many Congressmen and other freedom fighters were arrested in Benares districts. On 12th August police firing were reported from 25 places. These places were Chetgunj, Taliyana, Teliyana Crossing, Sonarpura, Harsih Chandra ghat, Benares Cantt. and Dashshvamedha in the city and Keshopur, Dhanapur, Cholapur, Sakaldiha, Babatpur, Khalishpur, Agarnath, Mensaur, Sayidraja, Sayid raja Railway crossing, Sayidraja South, Digharvat, Mughalsarai, Lohadih and Lilarapur in rural

235 Ibid, p. 45.
regions of the District. At all places police resorted to firing on unarmed masses who were striving to achieve freedom by non-violent means.

In Sonarpura students were fired upon. In this barbaric incident six students were injured. In Dashashvamedha firing four nationalists were killed and seventeen were injured. Kashi Prasad who died in this incident was only fourteen year old boy. At Dhanapur, police looted the property of the peasants and fired on them mercilessly. In Sayid Raza, two persons were killed in police firing. Here shopkeepers left the bazaar and went to other places to escape the police atrocities. In Cholapur colonial authority became more inhuman when they fired indiscriminately killing five and injuring more than hundred innocent nationalists. Here dead bodies were not handed over to the bereaved family members.

The nature of British repression was such that even the Hindu University could not escape. On 19th August at 5 a.m., people found the university under the occupation of the military. The main gate of the university which was closed was open by them by breaking the chains with oxy-acetylene gas. The boy’s students living in the hostels were forced to leave the hostels at the point of bayonet. The female students refused to vacate the hostels. The helpless girls were dragged out of their rooms and were not given time even to take their clothes with them. Even the rector, Pt. Madan Mohan Malaviya and the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Radhakrishnan were not spared. There lodgings were surrounded by the military. The lawns and gardens of the university were turned into a cantonment. This was the first instance in human history when a seat of learning of the eminence was subjected to such humiliation, and attacked.

By 28th August, whole Benares region was under police Raj. Publication of Aaj was stopped. Police gave free hand to the anti-social elements of the society to rob and loot the masses. Hallett’s lieutenants Messrs. Marsh-Smith and Nethersole besmeared their hands with the innocent blood of the peaceful and unarmed people. These tyrants ordered the military to burn villages and to rob them of money, jewellery, food-grains and other articles of daily use. In many villages standing crops were destroyed by

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239 Ibid. p. 18; Thakur Prasad Singh, op. cit. p. 58.
Men and women were tortured, tormented and subjected to many inhuman indecencies and humiliations. Even women were fired upon and locked in thanas. They were dragged down by their forelocks, were stripped naked and beaten. In many villages women were molested. In Jamuna Dube's house in Benares, child was thrown in the fire when family members did not reveal whereabouts of absconding Dube. Ramagati Singh was tied with the tree and continuous beating forced him to die. Injured Shridhar was beaten with the help of butt.242

Heavy collective fines were imposed on the villages and harsh and gruesome methods employed in realising them. Even having not a single pie, Kisan used to promise to pay the fine due to fear of soldier's tyranny. During French revolutions in 1789, the great fear was created by the 'brigand'243 but in case of eastern U.P. it was created by the British officials who were supposed to protect the masses from any eventualities. Such were the ways of the bureaucracy in the districts, and numerous were the situation in which restraints became impossible. Still the people of Benares remained perfectly non-violent and the stray cases of unfortunate lapses were the results of 'on spot spontaneity' were occasioned by the ruthless government repression.244

Table 4.6: Showing the events during repressive phase in Benares district

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S. No.</th>
<th>Name of the events</th>
<th>figure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Lathi charges</td>
<td>14 places</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Police firings:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>a) Places</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>b) Civilians killed</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>c) Civilians injured</td>
<td>178</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>d) Policemen killed in melee</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

244 In 1945, the Baanras District and City Congress Committee, appointed a committee to enquire into excesses committed by the authorities during the 1942 movement. The members of the committee were:
a) Abdul Salim, B.A., L.L.B., Advocate-Chairman
b) Raj Narain Singh
c) Sita Ram Jauhari
d) Raghunath Singh, M.A., LL.B., Advocate-Secretary
The committee submitted its 198 pages reports in September 1945. The committee have recorded the statements of 127 witnesses, got the reports from 217 persons, consulted the records of 57 decided cases, seen the register of admission and discharge of the King Edward, Marwari and S.S. Hospital of the Banras Hindu University, in order to ascertain the names of dead and wounded persons. The committee has inspected 13 places and consulted six local dictators, i.e. Messrs. Damodor Das Shah, Satyendra Kumar Basu, Shiva Dutta Vaidya, Hariphal Singh, Siya Ram and Sital Prasad Srivastava occasionally. cf. Sampurnanand, Memories and Reflections, (Bombay, 1962), pp. 129-131.
3. People who died as a result of beating by the police 3
4. People beaten, many of them being first tied to trees 73
5. Women raped 5 (at least)
6. Cases of the misbehaviour towards women:
   One example-
   The police raided the house of Jamuna Dube but could not find him at home. They held a child over the flames and threatened to roast it alive. It was spared only when the mother threw before them a gold ornament which she was wearing round her neck. In one case, a woman was forced to leave her house when she was about to give birth to a child. The child was actually born before she could reach the house of her relations.
7. Cases of public flogging:
   Mr. Hardy, I.C.S. was specially given to summary trials and inflicting sentences of flogging. There were cases in which more than 15 persons were flogged together. The law, it be noted, prohibits public flogging.
8. Houses razed to the ground:
   At least - 4
9. Arson:
   Note: full detailed about every incident are given in the original report.
10. Fines imposed on individuals and, collectively, on villages:
    - Govind Sahai has reported collective fines as Rs. 2,24,22,65
    - Dina Nath Vyas has reported collective fines as Rs. 2,57,977
    - Rs. 1,86,819
11. Persons externed 117
12. Persons interned 4
13. Persons held as security prisoners 302
14. Persons sentenced to various terms of imprisonment Over 550
15. Persons sentenced to transportation for life 14
16. Persons awarded the death sentence 3

**Source:** Benares District and City Congress Committee Report, 1945.

**GHAZIPUR**

The British repression in Ghazipur started with the commencing of people’s movement on 9th August 1942 itself. But the real phase of repression began with the arrival of British officials e.g. Marsh-Smith, Nethersole and Hardy in this part of U.P. On the 21st a detachment of the Suffolk regiment arrived followed that night by a force of Jats. On the 22nd Military police and troops got through from Benares to Ghazipur regions by train. After visiting Jaunpur and Azamgarh Mr. Marsh – Smith

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246 N.A.I., Home Poll, F. No. 18/9/42, p. 237.
reached Ghazipur area by road in the early morning of August 22. Mr. Nethersole arrived there shortly after by rail from Benares.\(^{247}\)

These English officials adopted inhuman and savage method to suppress the movement of the unarmed masses.\(^{248}\) A reign of terror was let loose in Ghazipur where villages after village was pillaged, looted and burnt by the military and the mounted police on the order of these officials. Such was the fear of their ruthlessness, that as soon as the news of their arrival spread, the panicky villagers ran away to the fields and hid themselves there.\(^{249}\)

When the army detachment reached Aurihar on 22 August, they got offended to find that the railway lines had been removed. In retaliation they fell upon the unarmed people of the neighboring village of Rampur. The villagers were badly beaten; their houses were set on fire and they were recruited by force to repair the bridge. Throughout the period when the bridge was being repaired, Nethersole and Hardy continued their torture and oppression.\(^{250}\) After that they proceeded to Saidpur where flogging, arrest and punitive measures including collective fines and bribery for buying peace became the order of the day. The deputy tahsildar showed disrespect to the tricolour by polishing his shoes with it. At every police station, respected peoples were called and abused. Later they were put into the jail. The district authorities indulged in wholesale loot and plunder with the help of the military. At Saidpur tahsil a collective fine of Rs. 86,000 and an equal amount of personal bribes were extorted.\(^{251}\) Nandganj was also subjected to a similar treatment. All the villages along the road were looted without any excuse; rendered homeless and their food grains, clothes, money utensils, including earthen pots and ornaments were forcibly removed.\(^{252}\) In the way, Nethersole misbehaved with Vikram Singh (reporter of Aj paper). By scolding, Nethersole told him that, “Oh! See, you work in the “Aj” that bloody paper edited by bloody Kamalapati, you cannot be let of.”\(^{253}\) He reached Ghazipur in the evening of 23\(^{rd}\) August.

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\(^{247}\) N.A.I., Home Poll, F. No. 18/8/42, 1942, p. 189.

\(^{248}\) NMML, Linlithgow papers, Hallet to Linlithgow, 18 August 1942.

\(^{249}\) P.N. Chopra, op. cit. p. 24.

\(^{250}\) UPS A, The Daily Sansar (Hindi), Benares, 24 Oct, 1942.

\(^{251}\) Ibid.

\(^{252}\) Ibid.

\(^{253}\) Dinanath Vyas, op. cit. p. 198; Govind Sahai, op. cit. p. 233.
Hardy reached Mardah in the morning of 23rd August and created havoc in the area. Matehu village was totally destroyed. On 24th night British forces entered in Singera village. In this village one woman committed suicide due to humiliation. Bagahi village was burnt down. In Devapur village, Matavir Yadav was shot down without any reason. Sixty persons were held and Rs. 22000 was collected as fine. Hurmujpur village was looted and destroyed.254

On 24th August, the British forces entered into Mohammadabad regions. Here also many villages were destroyed. District collector, Munro reached Ghazipur. Here British Administration had forcefully acquired agricultural land to set up an airport. Peasants had opposed the government intention. Here the forces fired on the women. Kokil Yadav died in this operation. One person from each family was arrested and whole village was subjected to collective fine.255

British savagery continued in Tamalpura, Kundesar, Kasimabad and Karimuddinpur villages. On 29th August, Munro, the District Collector, attacked the village of Sherpur which was surrounded by water due to flood. Hardy and Nethersole reached there by steamer. The village was surrounded, plundered and destroyed with the help of four hundred British soldiers.256 Even food articles were carried away. Ordinary clothes were burnt, while ornaments and valuable clothes were taken away. Many houses in the village were set on fire. According to B. Nageshwar Prasad, an eye witness, property worth more than rupees three lakhs was destroyed in the operation. Reports of rapes were also recorded. Beating of the adult male population became a common phenomenon and who offered resistance was shot down.257 Ram Shankar Lal and Khedan Lal got injured in the firing and were drowned in the flood water.258 The SDO attacked the village a second time and stole all that Munro had left behind. Gamhar village was subjected to a similar treatment. The house of Raja ram Singh, a known Congressman, was blown up by dynamite.259 His two sons were arrested. Dudh Nath Singh and Daroga Singh attained martyrdom. Many were wounded. The

255 Ibid. p. 142.
257 The Daily Sansar, op. cit.
258 Saraju Tiwari, op. cit. p. 143.
259 The Daily Sansar, op. cit.
village was looted and the women were divested of their jewellery and their honour sullied. The village sustained a loss of rupees one lakh.260

On 30th August, Nethersole crossed the river Ganga and reached in Zamania regions of Ghazipur. All the villages lying between Tarighat to Zamania were looted. In Medanipur, Ram Baran Mallah (low caste) was beaten so mercilessly that he died on the spot. Garua Makasudhpur, Malasa, Devaria, Matasa, Tajpur, Dhananta, Jivapur, Sabbhalpur, Darauli and Hetamapur were looted and subjected to British tyranny.261 Innocent citizens were beaten and many people were arrested. Lalaji Singh of Baruin village was shot dead. The safes of the rich men of Zamania were broken open and all their belongings were looted. From Hanuman Sahukar’s house Rs. 40,000 was stolen.262 The house and shops of Raghunath Sahunkar of Dildarnagar were looted and burnt down. Awanti, Nagasar, Ramaval, Shohadan, Vishunpura, Lahuar, Patakania, Ravatipur, Dedhagaon and other villages of regions were also subjected to the remorseless atrocities. Patakania was looted many times.263 Mukhia (headman) of Gandhu Taluka, Ramasagar Singh; Mukhia of Lotvaan Tokwaan, Satyanarayan Upadhyaya; and Mukhia of Tan Ban were humiliated by the sub-inspector (Daroga), Shambhu Singh of Zamanai police station.

The local politicians were dealt differently. They were made stark naked and were asked to lie down in the scorching heat of the noon. Then they were kicked, fisted, whipped and flogged. Nobody, whatever his age and condition of health was spared of this barbarity, not even those noted for being pro-British. One day a gentleman felt dizzy. He was very thirsty. When he entreated for a cup of water, he was given a cup of urine.264 Captured politicians were mistreated and to add insult to injury, they were told how their women in the villages, were being dragged in open fields, and dishonoured in the presence of thousands of people, and how their houses were being looted and burnt.265

261 Saraju Tiwari, op. cit. p. 143.
262 The Daily Sansar, op. cit.
263 Saraju Tiwari, op. cit. p. 143.
264 Govind, Sahai, op. cit. p. 234.
265 Ibid.
The heights of British atrocities in Ghazipur were known to the world when Mr. K.C. Neogy read a ‘notice’ in the Central Legislative Assembly on 24th September, 1942. Through the notice the Zamindar said that:

On the 26th August, 1942, at about 3 p.m my manager sent a man to me and through the message of my manager I come to know that four European soldiers accompanied by about 150 military men armed with rifles and along with the sub-inspector, Nandganj police station, came to my village in the afternoon of the 24th August and asked all the male members of my village including my manager and servants to leave the village and file on a ‘kutchaa’ road, which passed through the village, on pain of being shot at. The male members including children came out of the village and sat on the ‘kutcha’ road.

Thereafter, the four European soldiers along with the military men entered the village leaving a few military men to guard the villagers sitting on the road. In the village, the women were asked to come out of their houses on threat of being shot at should they refuse to do so. When the women came out the soldiers deprived them of all their ornaments which they were putting on their person and after that they raided the houses and looted cash, jewellery, ornaments, clock, etc. they also raided my house. The sub-inspector warned the European soldiers that the house belongs to an honorary magistrate who was a loyal British subject but the European soldiers asked the sub-inspector to shut up. They then looted my house and broke some of the valuable furniture and articles. That I have been put to a loss of Rs. 30,405 7-3 approximately as detailed hereunder on account of the acts of vandalism committed by the said soldiers.

That the soldiers removed the clothing’s from their houses of the villagers outside the houses and set them on fire and further set fire to 20 houses of my tenants in addition to several straw-thatched houses in the village.

That after having looted my house and the houses of my tenants, the soldiers came back on the road and asked all children below the age of 12 to go out of the line of the people sitting on the road. After this order was compiled with the adult persons sitting on the road were asked to sit like frogs after undressing themselves including my manager. They had to obey the order at the point of the rifle.

That thereafter a bamboo stick was split up into a few parts and five stripes were severely inflicted on the naked back of each of the villagers so sitting including my poor manager, who was throughout protesting that he was a servant of a loyal zamindar and of an Honorary magistrate. The condition of all these persons has become very serious and they will make their separate representation in due course if they so desired.

That one of my peons, who were protesting, was tied to a tree and mercilessly beaten with 30 stripes and was later on taken under arrest along with three other villagers.

That no public property is situated near my village and that none was injured by the residents of my village.

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266 Mr. K.C. Neogy was the Secretary of the National War front Movement. He had visited some of affected villages. He belonged to Muzafarpur district of Bihar.

267 The notice under section 80 of the Civil Procedure Code was served by a loyal zamindar of Ghazipur on the Government of India and on the government of the United Provinces, claiming damages for wanton destruction of property, committed by the military and the police in his village. cf. India Unreconciled: A Documented History of Indian Political Events from the Crisis of August 1942 to October 1943, (Hindustan Times Press, New Delhi, December 1943), pp. 388-389.
Following many imperial retribution in the past, British retaliation in Ghazipur was inhuman and savage. Collective fines were imposed on all the villages. Hitlerite methods were used in the realization of fines. The people who suffered most, whose property was looted and houses burnt were forced to part with fines. Thus impoverished they could not always pay the fine. So their remaining property was attached, their cattle auctioned, food stuffs were carried off and they themselves beaten before being let off.\footnote{Govind Sahai, op. cit.} Even after so much of repression, the people of the district were not disheartened. The nationalist songs became popular hymns and new slogans were coined presaging the inevitable doom of the raj.\footnote{India Unreconciled, op. cit., p. 389}

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S. No.</th>
<th>Name of Events</th>
<th>Figure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Arrests</td>
<td>3000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>False criminal cases were lodged against innocent people and criminal assaults were made on women by military soldiers and police constables</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Damage of property worth about</td>
<td>Rs. 35,00,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Villages destroyed</td>
<td>74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Firing</td>
<td>At 20 places</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Deaths</td>
<td>167</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Wounded</td>
<td>239</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Collective fines</td>
<td>Rs. 4,50,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


**AZAMGARH**

Like Benares and Ghazipur, repression continued in Azamgarh district also. Here also general pillage and arson and wanton damage to property by the police and the military were reported from different part of the district.\footnote{India Unreconciled, op. cit., p. 387.} Every activity of the masses in Sarai Mir, Mau, Madhuban, Indara Junction, Tarwa, Kajha, Sarai Rani and in other places was faced with British retribution. Such was the nature of British repression on the peace loving masses, when R.H. Niblett\footnote{R.H. Niblett was District Magistrate and collector of Azamgarh from 1939 to 1942.} criticized the higher British officials, he was transferred to Budaun.\footnote{Niblett, op. cit. pp. 50-52.}
There were numerous instances of the British repression. But some of the important instances were being described here. On the 17th August local were enjoying dangal on the eve of Nag-Panchami festival at Sarai Rani, about six miles of Azamgarh. Military troops fired on them because they were making slogan, “Mahatma Gandhi Ki Jai”\(^\text{274}\). Three persons were injured, one of them seriously. In the same area, congress flag flying on Khaddar Bhandar was burnt down by the troops. The house of Mahadev Singh, a congress worker of Dawara village was burnt and the house – walls dug and brought down. He was so mercilessly beaten that he fell unconscious. In this very state he was hung down from a tree and urine was poured into his mouth\(^\text{275}\).

The masses, provoked by inhuman repression, assembled at Patwadha village on 23\(^\text{rd}\) of August. The assembly was busy in trashing out ways and means of defence of the village. At this time, a lorry full of soldiers arrives there. The villagers surrounded the lorry so that the soldiers couldn’t fire at them. The soldiers told them that they had not come harm them. When the people started going back to their respective places, they were fired at from behind by the treacherous soldiers. Seven people died at the spot and many were wounded\(^\text{276}\). In a similar manner when 5000 persons staged a protest demonstration at Atraulia Military fired on them killing Shri Dev Raj Sharma of village Kharedhi and wounding more than 100 others\(^\text{277}\). For many days such atrocities continued in different village of Azamgarh under the supervision of Mr. M.H. B. Nethrsole and Mr. Marsh-Smith\(^\text{278}\).

The military flooded into Madhuban regions on 25\(^\text{th}\) August. On the pretext of tracing a missing gun, the troops raided many houses and later looted and destroyed them. The house of Ram Chandra Pande at Devgaon was attacked first\(^\text{279}\). Some others were arrested and incarcerated in the thana. Next day villagers were threatened with the help of machine guns. After that, Sikh, Balachu and British soldiers accompanied by the armed police at Madhuban and carrying tins of Kerosene oil arrived in two lorries and began looting the villages and setting fire to them\(^\text{280}\). Houses of Radha Prasad in Durgah, Pujan Koeri in Koluwa Khas, Shyam Sunder Misra and Kapil Dev Rai in

\(^{274}\) Ibid. p. 39; Govind Sahai, op. cit., p. 239.
\(^{275}\) Govind Sahai, Ibid. p. 240.
\(^{276}\) Ram Sharan Vidyarthi (ed.), op. cit. p. 262.
\(^{277}\) R.H. Niblett, op. cit. p. 39.
\(^{279}\) The Daily Sansar. 26 October, 1945.
\(^{280}\) Ibid.
Katghava, Sahdev Rai in Bibipur, Suraj Teli, Bairagi Kumhar and Ramdas Kumar in Dariyabad, Khaderu Kurmi and Chandra Kurmi in Parvezpur, Jagdev Kurmi, Lal Behari Kurmi and Bechan Kurmi in Ballbhadrapur, Ram Kishen Teli, Ram Lagan Sunar in Sipan, Sarju Narain Tiwari and Lakshmi Tiwari in Jijauli, Babu Nandan Singh in Misran and Mahabir Prasad and Mange in Suryapur respectively were looted and burnt down. Shiv Bahadur Singh a well-known Rais of Surajpur village was subjected to looting by the military and deprived of ornaments etc worth Rs. 32,000. Property worth Rs. 20,000 was destroyed. Kerosene oil was poured all over his palatial buildings which was set blaze. The doors of the palace were closed to put to death the inmate by suffocation. His two sons aged 8 and 10 years saved their lives jumping down from the house.

Even the national institution could not escape the government repression. The swaraj ashram of village Nawada was reduced to ashes, and similar treatment was meted out to Harijan Gurkul and to the Khaddar Bhandar, with all its contents, at Dohari Ghat. The house and the shop of Radha Raman Agarwal, a wealthy man of Mau, were reduced to ashes causing him a loss of lakhs of rupees. The police and military looted property worth lakhs of rupees in the villages and filled their own pockets. Every police chowkidar considered himself to be a station officer of his circle and every station – officer thought of himself as the district magistrate in his thana. A reign of terror was let loose by the police administration.

Besides looting and arson in every nook and corner of the district, the army also resorted to capturing innocent people followed by indiscriminate public floggings. In village Kotwa, a police constable murdered one person known as Nonie by inserting a lathi into his anus for not paying the full amount of subscription money. The British officials always adopted inhuman ways to realize a large amount of subscription. An enormous sum was demanded from Girdhar Das, a rais of Mau Nath Bhanjan. The sum was so large that he expressed his inability to pay as his daughter was to be married. He was suggested by the officials that he should either immediately pay that money by selling his daughter or hand her over to them. The rais could not bear this
and he committed suicide.\textsuperscript{286} In Maharajganj villagers were in extreme distress and could not pay the collective fines. The Naib-Tahsildar found that there was little property to attach. So he brought away all the village cattle.\textsuperscript{287}

Following harrowing tales of molestation of women testify to the civilization and culture that the British stood for. At village Ramangar about 20 soldiers broke into the house of a Harijan, named Chaitu, his young wife was caught hold of and was raped turn by turn. The poor woman died. In a similar way some Tommie’s entered a house in Kajha. The house mistress was preparing food with her two small daughters. She was caught hold of and molested.\textsuperscript{288}

Several innocent citizens were put behind the bar without any trial. Political leaders were rudely treated in the jails. They were provided with inadequate rations and kept under unhygienic conditions. During illness no medical facilities were provided to them. They were daily flogged like other criminals. To create terror, jail superintendents used to order lathi charges on jail inmates.\textsuperscript{289}

Following atrocities are explained in the words of R.H. Niblett, the district magistrate and collector of Azamgarh:

\begin{quote}
At Mau, Mr... created a terror Blanche. This was quite unnecessary. It is true a mob had burnt the office of the notified area, and that other incidents had occurred. But the town was predominantly Muslim; and the trouble had no roots there. Mr... used to come in from Ghazipur, and issue his orders as additional districts magistrate and deputy secretary to government.

The house of B. Radha Raman was looted and set on fire. This action was justified on the ground that “Radha Raman had burnt the office of the notified area in Mau. My retort was that he had acted in mob frenzy; while we had acted in cold blood, and violated our own laws.

Amila was treated with particular harshness, not because of the attack on the railway station and the town office, but because it was the home of Pt. Algu Ram (Rai) Shastri, M.L.A.

The house of Raghunath Singh of Bibipur, police station Kandhrapur, was sacked and brunt down by a police expedition. Raghunath Singh was undoubtedly one of the leading congressmen in the district. But he had left the district before the trouble began; and there had been no act of sabotage in the near vicinity of Bibipur.
\end{quote}

\textsuperscript{286} Ibid.
\textsuperscript{287} R.H. Niblett, op. cit., p. 40.
\textsuperscript{288} Govind Sahai, op. cit. p. 240
\textsuperscript{289} Sachi Chakravarty, op. cit. p. 195.
The whole property of Sant Baksh Singh (who was then detuning in the Jail) was set on fire at Phulpur by the police. This was entirely unjustifiable. Sant Baksh Singh certainly was a congressman; but a very inoffensive one. Nothing had happened at Phulpur, and the people there had actually watched the bridge across the Kunwar to protect it from sabotage.  

Thus the situation of the district had become such that there was no rule of law. On 27th August Fyzabad superintendent of police entered into the district and set fire a number of villages including Nahrumpur. R.H. Niblett complained that he was only nominal head of the district. Police under DIG’s instructions flouted rules in different parts of Azamgarh district. Police actions have been termed as ‘official loot’ by R.H. Niblett himself. DIG criticized the DM (R.H. Niblett) and went on to say that burning of Ashrams and houses of congressmen was necessary. He added that these methods had official approval of the British government. Even as late as October 1945 atrocities were being perpetrated for realizing war subscriptions along with other acts for re-establishing lost hegemony. 

In the 18th and 19th century the British had declared that they were in India to civilize the natives. But in terms of suppressing people’s movements, they committed different types of atrocities on the peace loving masses, which speak of ‘savagery’ itself. The history of images treats pictures as more than simply a reflection of something else. These pictures envisage history determined by struggles occurring at the level of visual. There is no doubt that these images show British savagery. But it also explains many more things. British power was like elephant which is invincible. These pictures show that there was complete British control over the body of natives, which it can mark, bend, torture and amputate. Lastly it could be observed that these images are ‘vehicles of a totalizing bureaucratic certainty’ in repression of the natives. 

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290 R.H. Niblett, op. cit. p. 40,41,44 & 50
291 Ibid. p. 40.
292 Ibid. p. 51.
293 Ibid. p. 47.
294 Shachi Chakravary, op. cit. p. 195.
295 Pinney, Christopher, Photos of the Gods: the Printed image and Political Struggle in India, (New Delhi, 2004), p.8
296 Ibid., p.12
Table 4.8: Showing the events during repressive phase in Azamgarh district

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S. No.</th>
<th>Name of Events</th>
<th>Figure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Detentions</td>
<td>380</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Convictions</td>
<td>231</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Death</td>
<td>107</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Injured</td>
<td>Could not be definitely ascertained</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Collective fines</td>
<td>Rs. 1,03,645*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Damages caused by plunder</td>
<td>Rs. 3,52,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>Houses burnt</td>
<td>205</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: *op.cit.* Azamgarh District Record; Sahai, Govind; Vidyarthi, Ram Sharan; and, Niblett, R.H.

* Ram Sharan Vidyarthi has given this figure as Rs. 1,62,000, p. 262.
P4.1 Sketch of forceful arrest of washerman

Source: Dinanath Vyas Kavyalankar, August sun 42 ka Mahan Viplav (Agra, 1946); India Unreconciled published by Hindustan Times Press (Delhi, 1943); Reports of Enquiry Committees appointed by the Provincial and the District Congress Committees and Provincial Governments; National Herald (Lucknow, 1946); Aaj (Kashi, 1946); Daily Sansar (Kashi, 1946); Abhyudaya (Allahabad, 1946); NAI Home Poll. F.No. 3/79/42, 1942.
P4.2 A man being dragged tied to an elephant

Source: Dinanath Vyas Kavyalankar, *August sun 42 ka Mahan Viplav* (Agra, 1946); *India Unreconciled* published by Hindustan Times Press (Delhi, 1943); Reports of Enquiry Committees appointed by the Provincial and the District Congress Committees and Provincial Governments; *National Herald* (Lucknow, 1946); *Aaj* (Kashi, 1946); *Daily Sansar* (Kashi, 1946); *Abhyudaya* (Allahabad, 1946); NAI Home Poll. F.No. 3/79/42, 1942.
P4.3 Man and women stripped and tortured by officials

Source: Dinanath Vyas Kavyalankar, *August sun 42 ka Mahan Viplav* (Agra, 1946); *India Unreconciled* published by Hindustan Times Press (Delhi, 1943); Reports of Enquiry Committees appointed by the Provincial and the District Congress Committees and Provincial Governments; *National Herald* (Lucknow, 1946); *Aaj* (Kashi, 1946); *Daily Sansar* (Kashi, 1946); *Abhyudaya* (Allahabad, 1946); NAI Home Poll. F.No. 3/79/42, 1942.
P 4.4 Cruelty of Nazism

Source: Dinanath Vyas Kavyalankar, August sun 42 ka Mahan Viplav (Agra, 1946); India Unreconciled published by Hindustan Times Press (Delhi, 1943); Reports of Enquiry Committees appointed by the Provincial and the District Congress Committees and Provincial Governments; National Herald (Lucknow, 1946); Aaj (Kashi, 1946); Daily Sansar (Kashi, 1946); Abhyudaya (Allahabad, 1946); NAI Home Poll. F.No. 3/79/42, 1942.
Source: Dinanath Vyas Kavyalankar, *August sun 42 ka Mahan Viplav* (Agra, 1946); India Unreconciled published by Hindustan Times Press (Delhi, 1943); Reports of Enquiry Committees appointed by the Provincial and the District Congress Committees and Provincial Governments; *National Herald* (Lucknow, 1946); *Aaj* (Kashi, 1946); *Daily Sansar* (Kashi, 1946); *Abhyudaya* (Allahabad, 1946); NAI Home Poll. F.No. 3/79/42, 1942.
P4.6 Rapes by officials

Source: Dinanath Vyas Kavyalankar, *August sun 42 ka Mahan Viplav* (Agra, 1946); *India Unreconciled* published by Hindustan Times Press (Delhi, 1943); Reports of Enquiry Committees appointed by the Provincial and the District Congress Committees and Provincial Governments; *National Herald* (Lucknow, 1946); *Aaj* (Kashi, 1946); *Daily Sansar* (Kashi, 1946); *Abhyudaya* (Allahabad, 1946); NAI Home Poll. F.No. 3/79/42, 1942.

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