CHAPTER 5

CLIMAX OF MASS UPSURGE AT BALLIA

The Rebellion in Localities

Ballia has a proud past to inspire with and the people love learning, and this innate tendency has made them all the more politically conscious.¹ Strategically the region was of utmost importance to the colonial government as the lines of communications to Bengal and the beleaguered Burma front, then reeling under the Japanese onslaught, passed through it.² The people of Ballia have added a golden leaf to the history of India. Mangal Pandey was from this place and his execution at Barakpur (West Bengal) on April 8, 1857 sparked off the first war of independence.³ Babu Kunwar Singh, one of the strongest adversaries of the British in 1857, although he came from neighbouring Shahabad, frequently camped here in the course of his campaigns.⁴ Since 1857 Ballia had remained a sore point for the British administration.

Early nationalist ideas spread among the masses of Ballia through the work of Ganga Singh. He was a local Zamindar who was responsible for organizing the activities of Arya Samaj in Ballia. Interestingly local branch of the Congress was founded in 1919 by him only.⁵ His lieutenant, Thakur Jagannath Singh was also one of the dominant personalities of the Ballia District Congress Committee (DCC). In 1930, Chittu Pande, the most important Congress leader of Ballia of all times and an important functionary of the DCC from the late 1920s, was prosecuted for showing lantern slides of cow being butchered for consumption by the Europeans and Muslims.⁶ Ram Lachchan Tiwari, who was associated with the revolutionary movement in eastern UP, was the organizer of the Congress Socialist Party in Ballia.

¹ Govind Sahai, 42 Rebellion (An authentic review of the great upheaval of 1942), (Delhi, 1947), p. 219.
⁴ Gyanendra Pandey (ed), op.cit., p. 170.
⁵ This information was revealed by Vishawanath Mardana on 20th April 1982 in Ballia when he was interviewed by Chandan Mitra, cf. Gyanendra Pandey (ed), op.cit., p. 183.

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In 1930s, Benares developed as an important centre for revolutionary movement. Many students from Ballia region went to the Banaras Hindu University (B.H.U). These students were influenced with the revolutionary ideas. Those who did not involve openly with underground organizations became radicalized in their political views since the university was a base for a large number of Marxist and other socialist sympathizers. Under the influence of Acharya Narendra Dev many students of Kashi Vidyapeeth in Benares also became politically radical. It is important that the products of the BHU and Vidyapeeth took active interest in the formation or activities of the Kisan Sabhas of the time. Younger Congressmen in these areas called themselves socialist. Many foreign Zamindars including Maharaja of Kasimbazar, the Nawab of Jaunpur and the Maharaja of Dumraon were opposed by the Kisan Sabha under the leadership of Vishwanath Mardana, a communist. This was the time when this part of Eastern UP was the mushrooming ground for the Hindustan Socialist Republican Army (HSRA). Jharkhande Rai was an important leader of this organisation in the region. Ballia became the main centre of contacts of the revolutionaries in Punjab and Bengal. Bhagat Singh and Chandrashekhar Azad were household names in the region. In this way Congress, CSP, CPI and HSRA groups were active among the people of Ballia and were spreading revolutionary ideas among the people of this region. It was therefore natural for the region to produce a massive rising against the British administration, after the sudden arrest of the Congress leaders in Bombay in August 1942.

Besides Kisan Sabha, another force that emerged during this period was Congress Qaumi Seva Dal. This quickly became a major recruiting and mobilizing force for the nationalist movement. The Qaumi Seva Dal was set up in 1938 with R.S. Pandit as its convenor. Sampurnanand, K.D. Malaviya and Nand Kumar Vashisht were its members. Earlier it was called Congress Quami Sena and probably owed its origins to Nehru’s ideas about a national militia following his visit to Republican Spain that

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7 Sunil Dasgupta, a student of BHU at the time and later secretary of Banaras District (CPI), was interviewed by Chandan Mitra on 14 April 1982 cf., Gyanendra Pandey (ed), Ibid. p. 171.
8 In Ballia, the Kisan Sabha was led by Vishwanath Mardana, son of a wealthy Kayasth family of lawyers and a young Congressman, while in Ghazipur, the President of the Kisan Sabha was Ram Surat Singh, a young Congressman who belonged to a family of substantial landowners.
9 Ibid. p. 172.
10 S.N. Sanyal, Bandi Jeevan, (Banaras, 1935); Shachi Chakravarty, Quit India Movement A study, (Delhi, 2002), p. 148.
In 1939, the Sena Dal was remodeled into the Seva Dal following objections from Gandhians that it imitated the police far too much in matters of uniform and discipline. In Ballia this organization grew rapidly under the leadership of some young socialists. Rajeshwar Tiwari and Vishwanath Chaube were given the responsibility of organizing the Quami Seva Dal in Ballia. Both were students of B.H.U, in their early twenties and were members of the CSP. According to Rajeshwar Tiwari, the Quami Seva Dal had very important role to play in the movement of 1942 in Ballia regions. Dal was composed of young people, hardly 18 or 20 years old. These young nationalist were full of vigour and josh. Politics were absolutely new to them. They were given intensive training in the camps organized by the Dal. There were interaction between the Dal members and youth of the neighbouring villages. They had a long discussion on politics. Dal carried out ‘Route Marches’ in uniform through the villages. These activities impressed the villagers very much. There was no doubt that the Congress Quami Seva Dal became a major instrument of mass mobilization in Ballia. During individual Satyagraha movement, the Seva Dal successfully recruited a new generation of activists to the nationalist cause. In 1940, Acharya Narendra Dev was made the provincial commander of the Congress Quami Seva Dal of U.P. Under his leadership the organization got strengthened. Wherever youthful enthusiasts of the CSP could be motivated, the Seva Dal expanded. During the events of 1942 these Dal members were ready to provide the leadership to the surging crowd. Ballia headed the membership tally of the Seva Dal in the UP districts with 5452 members in October 1939. On the eve of 1942 movement, when Japanese pressure increased on the eastern border of India then many villages made their Gram Rakshak Dal in eastern U.P. The people followed the events before 1942 with anxiety, excitement and inquisitiveness. They began to depend upon the Congress Quami Seva Dal and the gram Rakshak Dal for their defence against any internal and external attack, and

11 NMML, AICC Papers, File No. G-2, 1940, Compiled by Jagdish Prasad on the U.P. Congress Quami Seva Dal.
12 Gyanendra Pandey (ed), op.cit., p. 173.
13 Ibid.
14 Ibid. p. 174.
15 NMML, AICC paper, F. No. P-20 Kw. 1, 1939, UPPCC circular No. 5 October 1939.
joined them in their thousands. Detail politics of the area have been discussed in Chapter II and III.

People's Activities in Ballia Region

When delegates were ready to start for Bombay, they were summoned to Benares and given an instructive outline of the impending movement by Kamalpati Tripathi and Sampurnanand. On 9th August 1942 late in night, Suraj Prasad, a Congress volunteer arrived from Benares with Aj newspaper. He met Uma Shankar Mishra who was appointed the dictator of the District and passed some secret messages. In a closed door deliberation, the future course of actions was decided. The next day on 10th August, all the schools in Ballia were closed and the students went round in batches shouting slogans such as Gandhi Baba ki Jai, Angrejo Bharat Chhoro, and got the markets closed. From Oakdenganj, Uma Shankar Mishra gave a call for revolutionary action. On the 11th August, large processions of 15 to 20 thousand masses passed through the various streets in the city and finally converge at the city centre. Here the gathering was addressed by Ram Anant Pande who was a staunch Gandhian and an established scholar of the area. In his spirited lecture, he inspired the people to take up the cause of the arrested leaders. In his two hours discourse he urged the masses that the British challenge ought to be accepted and the struggle for independence for the final overthrow of the British rule by all means, which had already been started in the rest of the country, must be carried on in the hearthland of Ballia. Another leader, Lakshmi Shankar Rai pledged on behalf of the student community to take the task ahead seriously. After the meeting, a huge procession marched towards the district court to get the court work suspended. On receipt of information that a procession was heading towards the court, Mr. Wais, sub-divisional officer of Ballia, rushed with an armed force and checked the procession near the gates of the railway crossing lying between the city and the court compound. As the procession stopped, the crowd began swelling. The students were orderly and non-

16 Govind Sahai, op.cit., p. 219.
17 Mahendra Pratap, Ballia Me Rashtriya Andolan, (Ballia,1972), p. 42; Shachi Chakravarty, op.cit. p. 149.
18 Saptahik Bhrigukshetra, S. No. 21, 21 December 1972.
20 The Daily Sansar, 29 October 1945.
21 Durga Prasad Gupta, Ballia Me 42 Ki Jan Kranti, (Ballia, 1974).
22 Govind Sahai, op.cit., p. 219.
violent but they had no mechanical control over the crowd and their passions. After some altercation, Mr. Wais ordered lathi charge on the students and as a result 100 students were injured and one of them succumbed to his injuries in the hospital. Thus with people’s movement police crackdown also began. About 50 students were arrested. Ram Anant Pande and Ram Naresh Singh were the first two to be arrested. Many prominent Congress workers of the Ballia city including Radha Mohan Singh, Radhey Govind Singh and Parmatma Nand Singh were taken into custody.23 Other important faces of the procession were Awadesh Tiwari, Ram Subhag Singh, Rama Kant Singh, Ram Chandra Tiwari, Keshav Singh, Parmanand Pande and the students of the local D.A.V. and Maston Schools.24 The teenage son of the Ballia District magistrate, J.C. Nigam, also took part in the processions and other demonstrations organized by the Congress during Quit India movement in Ballia.25 There were considerable evidence to suggest a wavering loyalties among the junior administrative staff of the Raj following the assumption of office by the Congress in the provinces in 1937. Many of them sympathized with the Congress to a considerable extent. Sometimes, even the senior officials were affected by this. In 1937, Munger District Magistrate in Bihar ordered the police to salute the Congress flag every time the premier Sri Krishna Singh did so while the premier was on tour of his district. The Indian ICS officer also flew a Congress flag on his car alongside the Union Jack while Singh was on tour.26 During 1942 movements, officials were half-heatedly working of the British government. Almost all junior officials had accepted that the British did not have moral force on their side.27

On 12th August, two sisters Janaki Devi and Gayatri Devi together with their aged mother led the procession. The procession marched towards the kutchery (Court) via the chowk. There the women leaders implored the civil judge to vacate his chair and join them. But he expressed his inability so he was presented with a couple of bangles. Then the Congress flag was successfully hoisted on the Kutchery building. Surging crowd forced district administration at the collectorate to beat a hasty retreat. Janaki Devi occupied the empty seat amidst the resounding sounds of Inquilab

24 Ram Das Prasad, Swatantrata Sangram me Baghi Ballia, (Ballia, 1976), pp. 24-5.
25 Saptahik Bhrigukshtera, Sp. No. 21, 21 December 1972; Durga Prasad Gupta, op.cit., p. 27.
26 Gyanendra Pandey, (ed), op.cit., p. 178.
Zindabad. Thus Janaki Devi provided a rallying point for the nationalist cause in Ballia. Like district headquarters, authorists were also unable to control the rural areas of Ballia. By 12th August through A.L. Amery’s statement Congress programme were also known to rural people who were not aware of it. It provided a sense of direction to those who were waiting for more action. By this time Ballia also witnessed hundreds of students returning from the universities of Lucknow, Allahabad and Benares. These students, who were closely aware of the political situation, infused a fresh spirit of optimism in the uncertainties of local political speculations. A meeting took place in Kataria jungle on the outskirts of Ballia. The discourse of the meeting under the leadership of Pradyuman Mishra (Congress) decided the future course of action. Intelligent and judicious strategy to destroy the railway lines rendering outside interference impossible followed by some bold decisive action to control the abandoned police station were made. It was also deemed imperative that a necessary network ought to be worked out to transmit the programme in the other mandals of the district. Evidently, simultaneous action all over the district was the object and the developments of the next few days testified to the fact that the planners had been immensely successful in executing their daring programme. As a result of indiscriminate cutting of communications and sabotage to railway lines, practically no news was received at the Provincial Headquarters of the situation in most of the districts east of Allahabad for several days. The magnitude of people’s actions in the form of processions, flag salutations, strikes, picketing of law courts, of markets, of government offices was very intense in Ballia. All signs and symbols of colonial establishment came under attack. The Ballia district was completely cut off for about 10 days. People attacked police station, post office, treasury and seed centre. Water tank and water pumps were smashed. All land records in Bansdeh Tahsil was wholly destroyed. In about 180 villages, land records were partially destroyed. Valorous masses of Ballia took out several processions between August 9 and 13 in spite of an order under section 144, criminal procedure code,

28 Ram Das Prasad, op.cit., pp. 24-5.
30 NMML, Linlithgow papers Hallet to Linlithgow, 7 Sept 1942.
31 Saptahik Bhrigukshetra, op. cit.
32 Ibid.
33 NAI, Home Poll (I), F. NO. 3/16/42, 1942, p. 15.
34 NAI, Home poll, F. No. 18/8/42, 1942, p. 42.
35 NAI, Home poll, F. No. 18/9/42, 1942, p. 56.
prohibiting them. Political activities further heightened when on August 14 a passenger train flying a Congress flag arrived full of students from Benares. Next day the crowd went round the town after hoisting the Congress flag on the district office, the civil court and the government High school and attacked the railway station and the post office. These types of activities continued till Ballia was liberated on 19th August.

Liberation of Bilthara Road

Young student leader Paras Nath Misra mobilized the masses for the liberation of Bilthara Road railway station located in the north-west of Ballia, bordering Azamgarh. Paras Nath Misra left B.H.U with his friend Sita Ram Rai of Ghazipur on 12 August after taking part in processions in different parts of Benares city for a few days. First they reached Saidpur in Ghazipur as part of the plan agreed at a meeting in the BHU campus for students to return to their villages and spread rebellion. From there they walked through several villages and apprised the people about the happening in Benares and other cities. The villagers were told that the British Raj was collapsing everywhere. Now it was the duty of the Indian people to hit all the symbols of the Raj. All meetings in the rural areas ended with the slogan ‘Thana jala do!’ (Burn the police station), ‘station phoonk do!’ (lit fire to railway stations), and ‘Angrez Bhaag Gaya!’ (the English have fled).

After a few meetings both of them parted company in order to return to their respective villages. On 13th August Paras Nath Misra arrived in his native village. Local people got enthused by the peoples activities in Benares and in neighbouring districts. They gathered in a neighbouring village where a local fair (Dambar Baba Ka mela) was in progress. Here, Paras Nath addressed a meeting and called upon the people to assemble at Bilthara Road on the following day so that the railway station could be attacked. When the meeting was in progress, a passenger train high jacked

36 NAI, Home poll, F. No. 18/8/42, 1942, p. 189.
37 Ibid. p. 190.
39 According to Sita Ram Rai meeting of the more radical students of BHU was held in the lawn of the campus on the morning of 10 August 1942. This was presided over by Dr. K.N. Gairola.
40 Gyanendra, Pandey (ed), op.cit., p. 175.
41 Ibid.
by the students, flying Congress flags arrived at the station. The students boarding on this liberated train apprised the crowds that the programme of the Congress was paralyse the government in every way. This excited the crowd greatly and by the time Paras Nath Misra arrived at the railway station the crowd had already begun destroying the station building. This was the time when army supply train arrived. The crowd broke open the wagons and started looting the sugar. As the news spread, people from faraway villages, even from Azamgarh, arrived in bullock-carts to take away as much sugar as possible. Later on, the stations of Ratanpura, Rasra, Chilkahar, Phephna, Ballia, Bansdih, Reoti and Surmanpur were burnt down or rendered useless. This resulted in the complete breakdown of the communication system between Ballia and Lucknow. Belthara Road station was almost on the border of Azamgarh commanding a significant entry point into the district from Deoria. Destruction of the station paralysed the troop movement from Azamgarh as well as Devoria. Banarasi Kandu along with nine others was charged with looting the railway wagon. But special magistrate took lenient view of the situation citing the ground that the nine accused were not leaders but had been misguided and tempted into the act by prospects of material gains. Thus the people of the Ballia got the first taste of swaraj in the liberation of Belthara-Road railway station on 14 August 1942.

Swaraj in Bansdih Tahsil of Ballia

Bansdih situated about 15 miles north-east of Ballia became another storm centre of peoples activities. On 9 August the tahsil authorities had searched the Congress office in the Bansdih Bazaar and seized all the papers. Later Ram Naresh singh, a prominent Congress leader was arrested. On 12th August people reacted in the form of a Congress procession. It seemed that local authorities were folly aware of the future plans of the Congress leaders. On 16 August, the officiating Tahsildar called a meeting in which Naib Tahsildar, the police station officer, prominent Congressmen and the raises of the area were present. It was decided that the authorities would refrain from the use of force in the event of an attack on colonial symbols. The Naib Tasildars, Lal Bahadur Singh was also very friendly with the local Congress leader

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42 NAI, Home poll, F. No. 18/8/42, 1942, p. 190.
43 Durga Prasad Gupta, op.cit., p. 33.
44 Fortnightly report for the second half of August 1942; Shachi Chakravary, op.cit., p. 155.
45 King Emperor vs. Banarsi Kandy and others, case no. 280 of 1942, Criminal Records Room, Ballia.
Gajadhar Lohar. On 17th August Gajadhar Lohar addressed several meetings and declared that the vestiges of the Raj, as symbolized by the thana and tahsil buildings, would be destroyed on 18th August.

On 18th August an estimated crowd numbering fifteen to twenty thousand assembled outside the Thana in the afternoon. The frightened station officer, Chabbi Nath Singh, after some parleys, with the crowd leaders, donned Gandhi cap and personally hoisted the Congress flag atop the thana building. After that the crowd looted the police station and set it on fire. The station officer in his Gandhi cap and with a tricolour in his hand, marched a head of a procession to the adjacent tahsil building. Seeing the josh of the surging crowd, the Tahsildar decided against offering any resistance. Tahsil office along with the treasury was looted and burnt. Important file related to patwari land records and legal cases of the lower courts were destroyed. People of Ballia destroyed land revenue records because these were a source of peasant’s misery. Money available in the treasury was distributed to all government officials for the months of August, September and October. Now, the tahsil was declared independent. The leader of the crowd Gajadhar Lohar, who was the president of the Bansdih town Congress committee, was installed as the swaraj Tahsildar of Bansdih. His first act was to suspend the earlier tahsildar, the Naib Tahsildar and other local officials. He ordered them to leave the Tahsil within 24 hours. There was an endeavour to set up a parallel administration in Bansdih regions of Ballia.

It was remarkable that the new Tahsildar coordinated the function of the administration with the helping hand of a former sub-tahsildar Mohammad Syed. He provided the new administration with secret information regarding the morale, strength and military preparedness of the fallen authorities. Mohammad Syed was under the influence of revolutionary movement since his student years. It is a fascinating example of nationalism, being in government service he had dared to risk

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47 Durga Prasad Gupta, op. cit. p. 55.
49 Durga Prasad Gupta, op.cit., p. 47; King Emperor vs. Chabbinath Singh and others, case no. 83 of 1943, Criminal Records Room, Ballia.
his job. Intensity of people's rebellion was such that many government officials were influenced by the nationalist fervor. These officials had developed a soft corner for the peoples who were taking lead in the movement. Gajadhar Lohar, Suraj Singh, Sudhakar Pande, Jamuna Singh, Gopal Tiwari, Khakhun Ahir and many others evolved as the main participant during Bansdih movement in Ballia.

After occupying the Tahsil building, the triumphant crowd went to the seed store where they managed to loot more than 1500 bales of foodgrains. It was followed by the occupation of the post office. It is interesting to know that the police station, the tahsil office, the seed store and the post office were liberated within a single day without any bloodshed. The most effective weapon of the crowd was the upsurge of numbers. To consolidate people's power, a subcommittee was formed which initiated a panchyati raj. All the general administration came under the purview of panchyat Raj. It also decided to settle all future legal cases as the formal courts were declared infructuous. To regulate the price of foodgrains, a sub-committee under Mathura Prasad, Niranjan Singh and Rameshwar Sharma was formed. Thus people's government worked out the rubrics of future government in Bansdih Tahsil of Ballia.

**Bairia: The Victory of Passive Resistance**

Bairia police station is 40 miles east of Ballia town. This region is a doab formed by Ganga and Saryu rivers. Sitab Diara of Bihar is very near to this place. Famous socialist leader Jaiprakash Naryan is native of Baiju Tola of Sitab Diara village. This doab is nearly a cluster of 209 villages. This part of Ballia was politically very active. Congress had divided the whole area into two Mandals eg. Bairia mandal and Dalan Chhapra Mandal. The Mandal Committee had divided the villages into 3 Halka. Such Halka had their own Halka committee. The aim of the Halka committee was to make gram committee in each village. There was Gram Sahayak Committee since 1941. The function of this committee was to collect 4 anna monthly from each member working outside of region. The village peasant had to give 7 muthia in every

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50 Durga Prasad Gupta, op.cit., p. 56.
52 Ram Das Prasad, op.cit., pp. 31-2; The Daily Sansar, 23 October 1945.
54 Ibid.
week. Local administration was run by gram panchayat. Between 1941 to 1942 no dispute went to courts. 70 to 80% of cases were solved by the Panchayat itself.55

Bahuara was the most active village of the area. This village had its own army maintained through Bajrang Ashram. Every village in area followed the path of Bahuara village. Just before the starting of Quit India movement, the popular Congress leader Thakur Jagarnnath Singh visited Bairia area and emphasized on self protection organization. After that each village formed their military organization for self defence.56

In Bombay incident of 9th August had repercussion in Bairia region. On 11th August. Bairia Mandal leader Mr. Kali Prasad, Ramadayal Singh and Madan Rai were arrested. A huge procession was taken out in Raniganj Bazar where the office of Bairia Mandal was located. Peoples were asked to attack every colonial symbols and signs. Meeting took place in Lalganj Bazar and in Dokati Bazar on 12th and 13th August respectively. In these meetings hand bills were produced with signatures of national leaders. It suggested non-violent means of capturing official buildings and police stations. Thereafter an action plan was drawn up for the capture of Bairia city.57

After the visit of Thakur Jagarnnath each mandal was divided into 3 areas under the leaderhis of Kshetra Nayak. On 14 August at 10 a.m. 300 Sainik gathered in Bahuara Bajrang Ashram. Each sainik had a sign e.g. Tiranga Billa.58 After the flag ceremony everybody took vow to capture Bairia police station in a non-violent manner. Thakur Bhupnarayan Singh of Bahuara Village was choosen as the leader of the procession. The euphoric crowd reached the Bairia police station which was in the charge of sub-inspector Quazim Hussain. He was requested to hoist the national flag on the thana and take an oath of allegiance to the new government. Under pressure Quazim Hussain complied with the request.59 After that the crowd came to Suremanpur railway station and captured it. Railway property was destroyed and treasury was taken into custody. On 15th August, the Bahuara village army captured the steamer playing in river Ganga between Patna and Buxar. On 16th August they captured the

55 Ibid. p. 156.
56 Ibid. p. 157.
57 Shachi Chakravarty, op.cit., p. 154.
58 Dinanath Vyas, op.cit. p 159.
59 Ibid; Shachi Chakravarty, op.cit. p. 159.
Chhavni of Dumaraon state. This was the time when people came to know that flag hoisted on police station was thrown away by the sub-inspector. This action of the police provoked the masses. Decision was taken that the police station would be captured on 18th August. On the 17th August some people went to the police station to hoist the national flag over the building. The sub-inspector vowed loyalty to the Congress and expressed himself in full sympathy with its cause and the movement.

On 18th August people started coming from every direction. The crowd from Rampur Misra village was led by Daneshwari Devi, Tetri Devi and Ram Jharia Devi. The procession along with 54 other women singing nationalist songs marched boldly towards the centre of the British power in the region. Another group led by Bhoop Narain Singh, Sudershan Singh, Parshuram Singh and many others came from different direction holding tricolours and chanting nationalist slogans. The leaders asked the sub-inspector and the constable to surrender themselves, the thana and all their arms. The Thanedar continued to play his wicked game. When the crowd surged to 25 to 30 thousand people, he invited the leaders for a discussion. As soon as the leaders entered the premises of the police station, the doors were banged behind them. Police constables had already gone up on the roof of the building and placed themselves on strategic position with their guns. Now the leaders were asked to go up. As they were going up the deceitful Thanedar bolted the door on the star case from inside. It was a signal for the police to open fire on the peaceful and unarmed masses. But the valiant people remained firm as Himalayas and were not prepared to leave their leaders in the lurch. Steadily did they come forward to receive the bullet wounds. There was no dearth of brave souls in Ballia.

The indiscriminate firing continued. In the meantime, a young brave man of village Naraingadh, Kaushal Kumar who was 25 years old, looked up and found that the Tricolour was no longer fluttering high in the sky. He couldn’t tolerate it. Rushing forth from the crowd, he managed to climb up to the roof of the thana and tried to hoist the national flag. But he was apprehended and shot at from point-blank range. The trembling body of the young nationalist wrapped in the national flag fell from the

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60 Govind Sahai, op.cit., p. 221.
61 King Emperor vs Amir Singh and six others, Case No. 1 of 1943, Criminal Records Room, Ballia
62 Govind Sahai, op.cit., p. 221; Shachi Chakravarty, op.cit., p. 160.
63 Ibid.
roofs. The bullets continued raining on the peaceful crowd from 3.30 p.m to 8 p.m. The crowd didn’t disperse till the stock of ammunition got exhausted. By the time colonial forces surrendered to the peace loving people, 20 patriots had died and more than hundred were injured. Both thana and tahsil were occupied by the people but they didn’t hurt even a single policeman.  

People’s activities in Rasra, Sahatwar and in other Police Stations of Ballia

Rasra Tahsil is located about 25 miles west of Ballia. On 17th August, the tahsil office, treasury and the police station were simultaneously attacked by the crowd but it was not successful. On 18th August, 15,000 men gathered near the Rasra railway station. The officer of the railway station was destroyed and the goods lying around were looted. After that the jubilant crowd entered in that area where post office, thana and the kutchery were located. Sensing the mood of the crowd, the officials agreed to hoist the Congress flag in front of the tahsil and thana. They also put on Gandhi caps as symbolic gestures of their unhesitant allegiance to the independent government.

After that the procession under the leadership of Nandlal Sharma, Shyam Kishore Sharma, Hanuman Ram, Dr. Hari Charan Lal and Sahdev Singh attacked government seed store and foreign textile owned by a rich businessman named Gulabchand. The frightened businessman sought police help. The police fired on the unarmed crowd without any escape route killing three and injuring more than hundred patriots.

Attacks on government property became the order of the day in Ballia districts. On 11th August flags had been hoisted at different thanas of Sahatwar, Sikanderpur, the Belthara Road outpost, Chitbada, Narhi and Ratanpur. In all these places the police conceded to the demands of the crowd without any resistance. When the crowd left, at some places flags were removed subsequently. At Sahatwar the initiative was taken by Shripat Kunwar. He had been active since the individual satyagraha. During 1942 movement, he and his group spent days and nights organising the attack on the police

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65 Ram Das Prasad, op.cit., pp. 30-1; Saptahik Bhrigukshetra, op. cit.
66 Daily Sansar, 18 October 1945; Dinanath Vyas, op.cit., p. 146; Shachi Chakarvarty, op.cit., p. 162.
station. On 17th August, as planned the crowd began to gather around the city centre. The station officer, Hyder was ordered to vacate the thana and surrender the arms. He expressed his inability so it was occupied on 18th August. The building was damaged and everything was set flame. On the same day, the post office and the seed store were also destroyed. Here, also, attempts were made to establish panchayat raj. A similar incident took place at Narhi, Sikanderpur, Ubhano, Gadwar and Haldharpur. At all these places the police withdrew without any resistance and the stations were destroyed on 18th August.

Ballia: Mass Upsurge and the National Government

Nagpur in Central Provinces, Ballia in the United Provinces and Monghyr in Bihar are hundred of miles apart. Happening in these places during Quit India movement showed an underlying unity and the most successful example of coordinated work between the town and the rest of the district could be seen in Ballia in the United Provinces. Here, the leaders took prudent decision that is first to strike the periphery of the empire and then to capture the centre. Within four days, i.e. 15, 16, 17 and 18 August, the British administration all over the district collapsed. All the police stations, all the post offices and other government buildings of the district were occupied. In fact all the symbols of British hegemony in the district were destroyed. Now it was the turn of Ballia city.

J.C Nigam, the district Magistrate of Ballia was undoubtedly under tremendous pressure. The city had been cut off from the outside world since 15th August. The situation was further aggravated by the circulation of rumours that Lucknow had fallen and that the administration had generally collapsed all over Bihar. At this moment, the district magistrate decided "to create an atmosphere of non-violence" and visited Chittu Pande, the DCC president in jail and offered to release him. Pande

68 Daily Samsar. 18 October 1945; Govind Sahai, op.cit., p. 222; P.N. Chopra, op.cit., p. 20.
69 NMML, Linlithgow Papers, Hallett to Linlithgow, 7 Sept. 1942.
73 NAI, Home Poll, F. No. 18/8/42, 1942, p. 190.
demanded that all political prisoners must be released if the district magistrate wanted
the Congress to cooperate.

On the morning of 19th August the news of a large congregation numbering
thousands, marching in a determined way from Sikanderpur in the north, from
Chitbada in the south and from Bansdih in the east, disturbed the tranquility of the
civil lines where most of the British officials had taken shelter. People cutting across
different strata assemble outside Ballia jail chanting nationalist slogans and demanded
the release of the Congress leaders.74 From here, 10000 strong crowd composed of
both Hindu and Muslim marched towards the district headquarters to hold it under
their control.75 Sensing the magnitude of the political situation, district magistrate
ordered the release from jail not only of those Congress leaders who had been
detained under the Defence of India Rules but also of the chairman of the district
Congress committee who had recently been convicted for a seditious speech. He also
ordered the burning of five lakhs of currency notes in the treasury.76

By noon, Chittu Pandey, the Chairman of the District Congress Committee, Radha
Mohan Singh, Ram Awtar Pande and 100 others came out of the jail.77 At this
moment young socialist leaders like Mahanand Misra, Prasidh Narain, Vishwanath
Chaube, Suraj Kayastha, Parshharam Singh, Bachche Singh, Nagina Chaube,
Shivpujan Ram and others decided to take full advantage of the prevailing situation.
Men who had come form the Bansdih tahsil under Ram Nath Prasad attacked
Japliganj police station. On its way, the crowd looted and destroyed the dispensary of
Dr. Babban Prasad and the house of Rai Bahadur Kashi Nath Misra because of their
alleged complicity with the police authorities. In civil lines they attacked the house of
deputy collector Mr. Owes, who had earlier ordered a severe lathi charge on the
students on 12 August near the railway crossing.78 House of Mr. Kakkar, a deputy
collector, also was subjected to a similar fate. The crowd then targeted Oakdenganj
police post where they burnt all the papers. After that all the liquor and opium shops
under government control were looted. At the railway station they made bonfire of all

75 Govind Sahai, op.cit., p. 222.
77 Kotwali Dairy, 20 October 1942, District Jail, Ballia.
78 Ibid.
papers and the tickets. Besides above mentioned leaders Shrikant pande, Ram Chandra Prasad, Uma Sonar, Vishwanath Badai, Dhani Ahir, Beni Ahir, Shyam Ahir and many others were prominent faces of the crowd in Ballia.79

The people captured whole British government net-work which was prevailing over the Ballia district and arrested the district magistrate, the highest executive officer of Ballia and the superintendent of police.80 On 19th August itself, the town Hall meeting declared the formation of ‘National Government’ in Ballia.81 Chittu Pande82 was proclaimed swaraj Ziladhish (Independent District Magistrate), the ‘de facto’ ruler of Ballia.83 To quote Pandit Jawahalal Nehru,

...in Ballia the British rule ceased to exist. The whole structure of the British government collapsed form top to bottom.84

The national government took oath of office and on 20th August a huge meeting, consisting of all sects and section of society was held at Hanumangaj Kothi. In token

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79 Ibid.
80 NMML, underground documents of the 1942 movement, File no. 190 (LLXIX), S. No. 7, Acc No. 647, p. 1.
81 Durga Prasad Gupta, op.cit., p. 73; Chandan Mitra, op.cit., p. 180; Govind Sahai, op.cit., p. 223.
82 Sri Chittu Pandey, son of Sri Ram Narayan Pandey, Raktu Chak, Sagar Pali, Ballia, was born into an ordinary land owning family in 1898. He had a formal education to the sixth class. He was a good orator and very proficient in Bhojpuri language. He joined the Congress party in 1921 during the non-cooperation movement. With the introduction of diarchy and extension of municipal powers of the district, Chittu Pande was elected to the District Board defeating his government - backed rival by a substantial majority. A dedicated leader of men with dynamism and vibrant nationalism, he secured one years' imprisonment for the first time in 1921. He again got 3 years R.I. during the Congress movement of 1930. He organized a black flag demonstration against Malcolm Hailey, the governor of U.P. in 1932. His position gradually improved in the party and became in contact with provincial and national leadership. He was a persistent organizer and could manage to draw a large number of leaders to his district. Jawaharlal Nehru, Govind Ballabh Pant and Rafi Ahmad Kidwai toured his areas extensively. Gandhiji himself visited Ballia in 1925. He remained a disciplined believer in Gandhi’s philosophy of non-violence. In 1941, he courted arrest during the individual satyagraha movement. When the ‘Quit India’ movement was launched, he was in jail. But the climate created through his self-less services was so “hot” that it impelled the then District Magistrate to release him and practically handed over charge of the administration to him for about 14 days. There after the British military came, “reconquered Ballia” and launched the unheard and unseen regime of ‘Black and Tan’. At this moment Sri Chittu Pandey absconded but in 1943, while hiding in Mirzapur, was apprehended and imprisoned for three years and released only in 1945. He became member of the UP Legislative Assembly in 1946. He gave a vivid description “of the 14 days that shook Ballia” at a public meeting held under the presidiship of Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru. Pt. Nehru honoured him with the title of “Sher-e-Ballia”. He died on December 7, 1946. Saptahik Bhrigukeshetra. 21 December 1972; Fighters for freedom: Who’s who: 2. Information Department, U.P. (Lucknow, 1964), pp. 24-25
83 NAI, Home poll, F. No. 18/10/42, p. 235; Durga Prasad Gupta, op. cit. p. 73.
84 J.M. Deb, Blood and Tears, (Bombay, 1945); The Hindustan times publication, India Unreconciled: A documented history of Indian Political events from the crisis of August 1942 to October 1943, (New Delhi, 1943), p. 423; P.N.Chopra, “‘Quit India’ Movement of 1942”, Journal of Indian History, Vol. XLIX, April, August & December, (Trivandrum, 1971), p. 20.
P5.1 Chittu Pandey, the leader of National Government at Ballia

of their support and recognition of the national government the people donated thousands of rupees to help the national government to carry on its administration. The loyal servants of his majesty’s government were put in confinement in police lines and new appointments were made in their places.\(^{85}\)

The National government had great moral influence on the people in the region. Some people had looted the property of seed stores, railway stations and the steamer. The new government instituted a committee of inquiry and called upon the people to deposit this property. It was remarkable that people came forward to admit their guilt and deposited the looted goods with the government. In Rewti police circle a widow’s ornaments worth Rs. 3000/- had been stolen and the police had been unable to find out the culprits. She applied to the new government. The new government caught the culprit and recovered the ornaments.\(^{86}\)

The policies and programmes of the national government was communicated to the mandals committees along with the instructions that each village should establish a Panchayat unit. All appeals from the village panchayats were to be brought to the District Congress Committee.\(^{87}\) Each village was to form its own corporation of local self-service units which was to be responsible for the maintenance of law and order.\(^{88}\) Thus panchayats were entrusted with both civil and judicial functions. In the urban areas also there was to be devolution of authority. Each colony within the city was to have its own panchayat. In the administrative hierarchy, at the top of the new administration was placed an independent district magistrate. Chittu Pande was selected for this post. Ram Anant pande was made his personal Peshkar or secretary. Different other posts were created, such as those of checking inspector, marketing inspector, even the CID inspector.\(^{89}\) A general appeal was made from the masses to...

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\(^{85}\) Govind, Sahai, op.cit., p. 223.
\(^{86}\) Ibid. p. 224.
\(^{87}\) Durga Prasad Gupta, op.cit., pp. 78-9.
\(^{88}\) Article 243 in part IX of Indian constitution deals with the Panchayats. Even after 63 years of independence, law and order powers have been not given to the panchayats. Dealing with law and order powers have been not given to the panchayats. Dealing with law and order provision was a remarkable achievement of the panchayats during the time of the national government in Ballia. The constitution of India, Government of India, Ministry of Law & Justice, (New Delhi, 2005), pp. 89-95; Fighters for Freedom who's who: 2, Information Department, U.P., (Lucknow, 1964), pp. 24-25.
\(^{89}\) Interview with Madhusudhan Pande, 9 November 1976, Sagarpath, Ballia cf. Chakravary, Shachi, op.cit., p. 173.
resume their normal activities, to pull up the shutters of the shops and to hold the weekly bazaars.

On 20th and 21st August, people celebrated the victory of popular upsurge. Even in city of Allhabad, people took out procession and celebrated 21st August as “Ballia Day”. On 22 August the Chairman of the district Congress committee announced that in future all complaints should be brought to him and not to the government authorities. Although the new government lasted for 14 days only, it may be admitted to its credit that it provided protection both to the general masses as well as to the government servants. There was not a single instance on record to show that any government servant’s property was either looted or he himself was mishandled by the people during those days. Even money in the treasury was not used for illegal purpose. It is observed that different leadership emerged in different parts of Ballia. Not a single people’s action was without planning. Alternative power centre in Bithara road, Bansdih Tahsil, Bairia circle, Rasra, Sahatwar, Ballia city and in other places are symbol of subaltern automanian power centres. And 14 days national government in Ballia was a prelude to the total liberation that was lying ahead.

Suppression of the movement by the Colonial Government

Eastern UP faced a successive wave of British repression. In Ballia, which established independent free government, was subjected to severest atrocities. For many years no person from outside was allowed to go to Ballia to see the condition of the district. Even men like Hon. Hirday Nath Kunzru was not allowed to go there to enquire into the doings of the government.

An alarming reports of what was happening at Ballia were coming in, Mr. M.H.B. Nethersole, who was the incharge of the operation in this part of UP, decided to send Mr. Marsh-Smith, accompanied by a mixed force of police and military to this

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90 NAI, Home Poll, F. No. 18/9/42.
91 NAI, Home Poll, F. No. 18/8/42, 1942, p. 190.
93 Govind Sahai, op.cit., p. 224.
This time Mr. Churchill didn’t call Sikhs, Pathans and Rajputs regiment to quell the people’s upsurge because they were not trusted now. People’s movement had ignited national feelings amongs them. Mr. Marsh-Smith reached Ballia by river from Ghazipur on the morning of August 23 and found that a military force with the additional district magistrate of Gorakhpur had arrived there the previous night by train from Mau, in the Azamgarh district. The strength of the people’s movement was such that Mr. Nethersole was forced to rush to Ballia with additional forces on 26th August. By this time Chittu Pande, Radha Mohan Singh, Mahanand Mishra, Vishwanth Chaube, Ram Anant Pande and other prominent leaders went underground to evade arrest. A collective fine of Rs. 50,000 was imposed on the city alone and almost the whole amount was immediately collected. People were terrorized by brutal public-floggings organized at the city centre. It became a common practice for the army to open fire at innocent people and to commit loot and plunder everywhere. To create panic among the masses, an army helicopter hovered over the city. A total collective fine of over twelve lakhs was released of which seventeen lakhs were appropriated by the oppressive local officials. The nature of the British oppression was such that even women and children couldn’t escape the brutal assault. The women were chastised and molested. The object of these measures of repression was to recapture the district and establish a reign of terror in the hearts of the people, so that they could not rise in rebellion against the British rule.

Gopi Singh, a rich merchant of the city with Congress sympathies, was let off only after paying Rs. 10,000 in cash to the government fund. Similar treatment was faced by Bachcha Singh, Murli Manohar Singh and Dr. Prabodh. After the arrival of Nethersole, all the tahsildars and thanedar who had taken shelter in Ballia city were immediately sent back to restore order of the raj with extensive judicial and executive powers. The moment Mr. R.N. Marsh-Smith landed, he looted the Singh engineering works and burnt the goods. He also ordered his contingent to loot and destroy the bright and beautiful kothi of a prominent rais, Babu Sheo Prasad. The Hindu

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96 NAI, Home Poll (9), F. No. 3/79/42, 1942, p. 70.
98 D.P. Gupta, op.cit., p. 127.
100 Ram Das Prasad, op. cit., p. 252.

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shopkeepers of the city who were not Congressmen, were also treated very badly. Fines were imposed on them, many shopkeepers were arrested, harassed and beaten in the police-lines, and various physical tortures were inflicted on them.\textsuperscript{101} Even the loyalists were not spared by the British forces. The example of B. Rajendra Prasad, a retired police officer and also the secretary of the District Zamindars Association was a staggering one. He was ordered to climb up a tree. His heavy body could not help him to undergo this ordeal and the constables pushed him on the tree stem somehow. Whenever his bulky body slipped down a little, the constable would pierce his buttocks and rectum with spears and rifle-muzzles from below, asking him not to come down. The poor old man could not climb up and fell down on the ground. Afterwards he was sentenced to 7 years imprisonment.\textsuperscript{102}

Ravindranath, a student of Meston college Ballia, was a great student leader. During the Quit India Movement he had organized the students against the colonial forces. He had formed a band of 30 students each from every school. Each band was headed by a Nayak, who used to do secret meetings to organize the masses. They used to publish magazines and pamphlets to propogate their ideology. They had also formed ‘Azad Dusta’ to fight the colonial forces. For all these activities, Ravindranath had to face severe tyranny.\textsuperscript{103} Mr. Marsh –Smith himself looked to the scenes of whipping and ordered loot demonstrating how best to do it. He also instigated the police to do the same.

What happened in urban Ballia was also noticed in the rural areas. As intensity of people’s movement was much in rural Ballia so it faced the severest form of British repression. The leaders of the repressive operation moved in this part of eastern UP with drunk Bilochies. They burnt villages after villages and did not even allow the people to go away to save their lives, what of property. The honour of women was not spared. The innocent persons without any regard for sex or age were mercilessly treated.\textsuperscript{104} Even there was bombing of Ballia. Expressing about the military repression in the area, Jawaharlal Nehru said,

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\item \textsuperscript{101} Govind Sahai, op.cit., pp. 224-5.
\item \textsuperscript{102} Ibid.
\item \textsuperscript{103} Dinanath Vyas, (ed), op.cit., p. 167-8.
\item \textsuperscript{104} Ram Sharan Vidyarthi, (ed), British Savegery in India. (Agra, 1946).
\end{itemize}
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The armies came and the planes came. They razed the villages to the ground. They ploughed the land where the villages once stood in order to put an end to the very fact that such brave villages once existed.\textsuperscript{105}

The two notorious tyrants, Marsh Smith and Nethersole started a campaign of mass canning in public besides thrusting of the lances indiscriminately. About 150 houses of Congressmen were looted and burnt. Ladies and children were driven out of the villages. Hairs (choti) of some of the ladies were cut and others were deprived of their ornaments and clothes and forced to wear rags. Many families were locked inside their houses for 24 hours without any food or water. People were dragged after being tied down with the leg of elephants. Many people were tied to the trees in centre of the villages and caned mercilessly. Many were forced to lick spittle from the ground and were contemptuously addressed with filthy abuse. At some of the police stations, even urine was poured in the mouth of people. Persons were beaten for not saluting the chawkidars. Beating with lathis, dundas, butts of rifles, fists and shoes was almost a common practice. Slapping and even piercing with bayonets was not uncommon. The white Gandhi cap was the severest crime which continued to be the recipient of severe beating wherever it was seen throughout Ballia or even in its vicinity.\textsuperscript{106}

In Sukhpura village, which is 8 or nine miles away from Ballia, even religious places could not escape the organized loot of the colonial forces. Here, Shri Yadunath Giri, Mahant of the math was made victim. The awe-Stricken Mahant and his disciples somehow managed to escape through the inner apartments. Jubilant elephant and beautiful bullocks in the math campus were shot dead and the horse was wounded. The math was looted and destroyed. The only fault of Mahant and these animals were that they had joined the forces of independence and hosited the Congress flag. Chandi Prasad of the same village, was going to give fodder to his cattle. Mr. Marsh Smith asked him to turn about and when he did so, he was shot in the back. Thus a fun was being enjoyed by the director of the civil defence of the United Provinces, at the cost


\textsuperscript{106} Ram Sharan Vidyarthi, (ed), op.cit., pp. 262-3; Govind Sahai, op.cit., p. 226; Dinanath Vyas, (Ed), op.cit., p. 150.
of a precious human life. His only fault was that he was a Congressman long back in 1921.\textsuperscript{107}

The house of Haricharan in Rasra was looted and burnt by the police under the supervision of the superintendent of police, Ballia. Same atrocity was meted to Ayub Ali's shop. After 154 days house of Vishwanath Singh was looted in Sardashpur village. Later on it was put to fire. House of Girdhari also faced the same fate. Mr. Jagadish Naryana Tiwari was very reputed nationalist in Ballia region. His house and cattles were also looted by the repressive forces.

Bahuara village in Bairia police circle was a strong centre of people's movement. While crushing the nationalist passion, British officials eg. Nethersole, Marsh-Smith and Wood helped in destroying 18 houses and looting more than 100 houses in this part of Ballia.\textsuperscript{108} Under captain Mur British repression fell heavily on Jamuna Prasad Halwai of Revati village. On 28th August, forces looted Hajipur village. On 7th September this village faced another wave of repression. In the early morning raid 25 nationalists were arrested and each house of the village was looted. 14 people managed to free themselves by giving bribes to the officials. And rest of them eg. Baijanath Rai, Dalip Rai, Hriday Naryan Rai, Ramaji Rai, Ramarup Rai, Ramasanehi rai, Chanda Rai, Ram Jhalak Rai, Kuldipnarayan Rai, Ramavat Rai and Jungabahadur Rai were awarded 2 years imprisonment and fine of Rs. 200 each. After 15 days Dhangur rai was also arrested.\textsuperscript{109} It was around this time that the news of Jayaprabhak Naryan's daring escape from the Hazaribagh jail arrived and also of his proposed training centre in the Tarai region.

In a fresh endeavours the revolutionaries established contacts with each other and with leaders of the CSP at Benares. The lead in these underground activities in Ballia was taken by Naramadishwar Chaturvedi.\textsuperscript{110} He had close contact with Ram Lakhan Tiwari, Mahanand Mishra, Mahadev Tiwari, Nand Kishore Singh and others. Ram

\begin{footnotes}
\item[108] Dinanath Vyas, op.cit., p. 156.
\item[109] Ibid. pp. 164-166.
\item[110] Article by N. Chaturvedi in Saptahik Bhrigukshtera, op.cit.
\end{footnotes}
Lakhan Tiwari was assigned the responsibility of publicity and contacts with students.\textsuperscript{111}

The British repression didn't discriminate between elite and subaltern, or bourgeoisie and proletariat or Hindu and Muslim. It couldn't suppress the people's idea of liberation from the colonial state; rather it was successful in revealing the weakness of the colonial state. British repression could be observed as their action against the captive colonial subjects. As according to R.G. Collingwood, 'every action is an expression of thought'.\textsuperscript{112} On September 24, 1942, in the central legislative assembly Mr. K.C. Neogy moved a resolution recommending to the Governor-General-in-Council the appointment of a committee to inquire into the allegations of police and military excesses in the country. The debate took a lively turn and members from both official and non-official sides participated. The debate remained uncompleted when the assembly adjourned 'sine die' on the same day. It was resumed on February 12, 1943, and concluded on February 18. The resolution was rejected.\textsuperscript{113} This rejection itself proved the atrocities.

It is in the fitness of things that Ballia which gave sepoy Mangal Pandey of the 'first war of independence' (1857) would also play a heroic role in the 'Quit India' (1942) movement as well.\textsuperscript{114} A Ballia region was full of instances which excel each other in official atrocity, barbarity, plunder, arson and loot. Out of 53 revolutionary,\textsuperscript{115} who were shot dead by police and the military during the movement, 29 were from Dalit and other backward castes, 22 were from upper castes (Bhumihars, Rajput and Brahmins) and 2 were women. Except few all were from rural Ballia.

\textsuperscript{111} Shachi Chakravarty, op.cit., p. 176.
\textsuperscript{113} India Unreconciled, op.cit., p. 387.
\textsuperscript{114} Fighters for Freedom, who's who: 2 Varanasi Division, Information Department UP, (Lucknow, 1964), p. i.
\textsuperscript{115} Ibid. pp. i, ii & iii.
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.
P5.3 Sketch of firing in Rural Ballia

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.