CHAPTER-1

INTRODUCTION

In the year 1942, the ‘Quit India’ revolution exploded all over India with a view to pressurizing the British Government to quit India. Really speaking, it was the last valiant life and death struggle of the Indians for achieving India’s independence from the imperialist rule of the British Government in India. Like all other areas of India, Nadia---a tiny district of Bengal, inspired by the Gandhian suggestion of ‘Do or Die’, had played a most revolutionary role in the historic ‘Quit India’ movement within its own geographical area with romantic patriotism and passionate nationalism.

At the outbreak of the World War II in 1939, Indian leaders sought to exploit the war-situation in favour of India’s independence and strongly demanded India’s complete independence. It is in this situation that the British Government in London, which was then heavily engaged in the Second World War, had felt very uneasy and got really embarrassed due to the anxiety of losing the support and help of the people of India in its war efforts in the War. And the Government had then felt it very practically that it would be really hard enough for it (the Government) to carry on its war attempts had it not obtained the mental help and actual support
of the Indians. Out of this feeling it had thus sought to soften the stern attitude of the Indians regarding India’s independence and to get their support and help in its war effort. In order to win the minds of the Indians in favour of its war-efforts, the British Government in London had thus sent the Cripps Mission in India under the leadership of Mr. Stafford Cripps to negotiate an official settlement of the Indian’s political crisis, including the question of India’s independence. But with the refusal by Mr. Cripps of the very demand of India’s complete independence under the intricate trick of the imperialist British Government, the All India Congress Committee (A.I.C.C.) , in its emergent mid-night session in Bombay on the 8th August, 1942, had adopted the historic ‘Quit India’ Resolution demanding “the immediate ending of British rule in India” and decided to organize the ‘Quit India’ movement under the popular leadership of Mahatma Gandhiji who while being arrested by the police at the deep night of the 8th August, 1942, had advised the Indians in favour of the movement to ‘Do or Die’ for the freedom of India.

But before the Sun-rise of the 9th August, the police arrested all the important leaders and workers including Mahatama Gandhiji, Moulana Abul Kalam Azad, Rajendra Prasad, Jawaharlal Nehru and Ballavbhai Pattle and so on. At the news of the arrest of the Indian leaders, the movement had exploded at once in Nadia on the very morning of the 9th August. Immediately a hartal was called.
The students had left their institutions, the shopkeepers had closed their shops, working of the daily markets had been stopped and the normal course of life had been interrupted. In deep excitement people had come out of their rooms and flocked into streets. They had often broken out in violence. Later on a great many number of processions and demonstrations of the general masses and the students had also been organized.

Secret violent activities were also committed in Nadia in favour of the movement especially by an ‘Action Squad’ like the removal of railway lines, fishplates and signal posts, cutting of wires of telephone, telegraph and railways, robbery of mail bags, burning of post-offices, railway stations, trains, refugee camps and Government record offices and so on.

The ‘Quit India’ movement in Nadia had become so serious both in gravity and extent that the Nadia authority of the British Government in India had got quite irritated and embarrassed and it had thus become quite eager to control and suppress the movement as early as possible. In order to control it, the local authority of the British Government had adopted serious repressive measures like police atrocity and military repression. According to an estimate, five hundred people were arrested, out of them three hundred persons were imprisoned for six months to three years, and the rest two hundred were acquitted either on the ground
of lack of evidence or on the execution of a bond of not joining such movement any more.

Though quite a vigorous one, the ‘Quit India’ movement in Nadia had ultimately failed due to some plausible reasons like the oppressive measures taken by the Government, the man-made famine in 1943, offering of war-time temporary jobs by the local authority of the British Government to the people of Nadia in the air-base at Dhubulia and the Ichhapur Gun-factory, people’s freedom-loving passion unaccompanied by reason and grass-root organization, absence of continuing leadership, lack of proper organization and so on. Still Nadia’s sincere effort in the movement released the pent up feeling of resentment against the Raj and also raised a deep desire for independence from the Raj. Herein remains the political significance of the movement in Nadia.

It is in this way that in the thesis a careful and in-depth study has been made on the political historiography of the ‘Quit India’ movement in the district of Nadia.

**OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY**

The research work wants to locate the historic role of the district of Nadia in the ‘Quit India’ movement, the final struggle for India’s freedom. In fact, Nadia
district had played a very crucial role in organizing and popularising the movement all over its geographica area. The different places of the district like Krishnanagar, Nabadwip, Ranaghat, Shantipur, Karimpur, Majdia and so on played an effective role to launch the movement and organize it through both the overt constitutional method and the covert violent means.

To make the movement a success, Nadia district had organized a series of pro-movement activities like the organization of the processions, demonstrations and meetings along with the anti-British slogans like ‘British Quit India’, ‘Bharat Mata Ki Jay’, ‘Gandhi Ki Jay’, ‘Samrajyabadi Juddhe Ek Bhai-O Noi, Ek pai-O Noi’ (‘Not a Bhai, Not a pie’) etc. The district had also organized violent activities like burning of Post Offices, Railway Stations, Trains, Government Offices and Refugee shelter sheds made by the government, cutting of railway wires and telephone wires, damaging the Railway signal Posts, Telephone and Telegraph posts and Official Records in the Government Offices, disturbing all the means of communication, snatching of Postal Money Bags amounting to Political dacoity and so on.

The objective of the proposed study is to delineate the historiography of the role of Nadia district (in West Bengal) in the revolutionary ‘Quit India’ movement of 1942.
HYPOTHESIS

The thesis *The Political Historiography of the ‘Quit India Movement in the District of Nadia* is completely based on a few points of research hypothesis which are as follows

1) The district of Nadia has a distinct role in the historic ‘Quit India’ movement.

2) The people of Nadia have fought valiantly in the movement.

3) They have inherited the attitude of protest and mass-movement against injustice and despotism from the First Civil Disobedience Movement of Srichaitanya against the arbitrary order of prohibition on the cult of Sankirtana, promulgated by the Kazi Saheb of Nabadwip of Nadia.

4) The people of Nadia have a militant patriotic character.

5) The Leaders and workers of the Indian National Congress have been greatly influenced by the Gandhian Mantra of ‘Do or die’.

6) The leaders and workers of other political parties like Forward Bloc (F B), Congress Socialist Party (CSP) and Revolutionary Communist Party (RCPI) have also played positive role in the movement.

7) The movement was not confined only in the town areas of Nadia district, but extended to its rural areas too.
8) The women community of Nadia has also participated in the movement with due commitment.

9) The movement in Nadia was organized on both the overt non-violent constitutional means and covert violent militant means.

10) The movement in Nadia reached its zenith especially because of the covert violent activities.

On the basis of these themes of hypothesis, the thesis completely rests.

**REVIEW OF THE EXISTING LITERATURE**

It is to be noted in this regard that a large number of scholarly studies have been made on the ‘Quit India’ movement in general. Some of these studies are: *Quit India movement : British Secret Report* (ed.) by P.N. Chopra, *Quit India Movement, The Second World war and Indian Nationalism* by Arun Chandra Bhunya, *The ‘Quit India’ Movement, August , 1942 : A case study in Militant Nationalism* by M.V. Harcourt, *‘42 Rebellion: An Authentic Review of the Great Upheaval of 1942’* by Govind Sahai, *Spontaneous Revolution : The Quit India Movement* by Francis G. Hutchins, *Quit India* by M.S. Venkataramani and B.K Srivastava, *Transfer of power 1942-1947*, vol. II (ed.) by Nicholas Mansergh, *Workshop on India in 1942* by Saugata Mukherjee and so on. All these studies,
made on nation-wide level, taken together, are quite enough to give a real picture and a systematic idea of the movement.

It is also to be noted in this regard that a very few scholarly studies have also been made to discuss the movement on regional or local basis. Some important studies of such local level of analysis are: *Quit India in Bihar and Eastern United Provinces: the Duel Revolt* by Stephen Henningha, *The Quit India Movement in Gujrat* by David Hardiman, *The Satara Patri Sarkar* by Gail Omvedt, *Anticipation of Power: The Bhojpuri Region in 1942* by Gyanendra Pandey, *The Congress Rebellion in Azamgarh, August - September 1942* by R.H. Niblett, ‘Kisan Populism and Revolution in Rural India: The 1942 disturbances in Bihar and East United Provinces’ by M.V. Harcourt and so on. All these micro or local studies on the ‘Quit India’ movement had sought to focus the movement on the specific parts of India.

But no work is there, it is also to be noted here, on the Quit India movement in the district of Nadia. Only a brief descriptive account of the movement without any official information, entitled as ‘Bharat Chharo Andolan ba August Biplab’ (i.e. ‘Quit India movement or August Revolution’) [in Bengali] in the book *Swadhinata Sangrame Nadia* published by the Nadia District Citizens’ Council on the occasion of the Silver Jubilee festival of India’s independence in 1973. This Bengali article on the movement is over-crowded with mere facts and events which
occurred in the district during the movement; but these events are not systematically and orderly arranged with sufficient data and records. None-the-less this article which carries the basic source material for the present study on the ‘Quit India’ movement in the district of Nadia, is quit good in its limited objective.

However, the absence of any systematic, documented and, above all, analytic study on the movement had provided full scope to search for a new systematic study. Since there is no detailed study of the movement, attempt has thus been made for a descriptive account of the movement at micro level.

In the content analysis of our present study “The political Historiography of the ‘Quit India’ movement in the District of Nadia”, we will try to discuss the course of action of the ‘Quit India’ movement in the district of Nadia, the role of the district in launching, organizing and popularizing the movement within its own geographical area, the role of different political parties in the movement, the nature of leadership of the movement in the district, participation of the people in the movement, reaction of the Government and its local authorities, the end of the movement, the intensity of the movement in the district and so on.

Lastly after the completion of the discussion on the above issues, relating to the ‘Quit India’ movement in the district of Nadia, we will try to draw some basic points of observation regarding the nature and character of the movement in the district, which we will get in course of our progress with the discussion.
RESEARCH GAP

The proposed work entitled as “The Political Historiography of the ‘Quit India’ Movement in the district of Nadia” seeks to highlight the history of the revolutionary ‘Quit India’ movement in the district of Nadia of the then Bengal only and exclusively. Needless to say that academic vacuum on the subject impels me to pursue the research work. No systematic and orderly study has yet been done on the historic scenario of the role of Nadia district in the historic ‘Quit India’ movement of 1942.

Really speaking, there is a great deal of macro level analysis of the all-India ‘Quit India’ movement. Still there is an astonishing vacuum in the study of the movement at the micro level. In fact, a lot of works have of course been done on the role of India in general, and of Bengal (now West Bengal) in particular, in the ‘Quit India’ movement. But a serious gap, sincerely speaking, is there as to the study of the role of Nadia district in the historic ‘August Revolution’. And no research work and authentic study have ever been made on the proposed issue.

So the proposed study is intended to seek to fulfill the gap at the research level on the role of Nadia district in the revolutionary ‘August Movement’ of 1942.
RESEARCH QUESTIONS

In order to achieve the objectives of the study, following questions have been included in the work ---- What was the importance of the ‘Quit India’ Movement? What factors led to the emergence of the movement? What was the significance of the movement in the State in general and Nadia in particular? What were the strategies of the district leaders in organizing the movement? What was the significance of the leadership in the movement in the district? What was the attitude of different political parties towards the movement? How did the general masses take part in the movement? What was the reaction of the Administrative Authorities towards the movement? Had there any far-reaching impact of the movement in the freedom struggle?

METHODOLOGY

In order to search a fruitful query, the present study “The Political Historiography of the ‘Quit India’ Movement in the district of Nadia” gives emphasis on the following matters :

1) Field Investigation
2) Interviews with the direct participants in the movement under study and also with the persons having some experience and knowledge of the course of the movement.

3) Collection of data through:
   a) Books,
   b) News papers,
   c) Journals,
   d) Pamphlets,
   e) Unpublished seminar papers
   f) Published papers and
g) Certified copies of imprisonment report of different participants in the movement issued by the authorities of different jails of West Bengal.

4. Collection of information from different libraries (namely National Library, Calcutta, Central Library of Kalyani University, Kalyani, Ranaghat public Library, Ranaghat, The Library of Asiatic Society and so on) and Government archives.
STRUCTURE OF WORK

So far as the structure of the thesis is concerned, it has been divided into ten chapters. A brief account of the chapters is given below that will help one understand the main ethos of the thesis in a nut shell.

Chapter-I gives a brief introduction of the research undertaken. It begins with an account of the gravity and extent of the ‘Quit India’ movement in India in 1942 and the participation of the district of Nadia in the movement. It has given a definite idea about the objective of the research. It has also raised a few research hypotheses along with a few research questions. It has also dealt with the methodological aspect of the research. An extensive review of some available literature on the topic of the research has been made in this introductory chapter in order to find the road map for the present research. It has also shown the serious gap of research on the topic of the research and thereby raised the justification / rationale of the thesis. It is in this way that this very introductory Chapter highlights the nature and orientation of the research in brief.

Chapter-II highlights the geo-political and socio-cultural scenario of the district of Nadia. It delineates a compact picture of the geography of the district to find its locational importance not only in the-then Bengal, but in the whole of India
too. It also gives a social scenario of the district with its population along with male-female ratio, caste ratio and the ratio of religious communities. It also depicts a clear picture of the-then weak economy of the district, in as much as despite many cottage and small scale industries, Nadia had been suffering a lot from deplorable economy due to the lack of considerable number of large scale industries. It has, of course, highlighted the glossy educational scenario of the district in as much as Nabadwip of Nadia at the time of Srichaitanya was called the ‘Oxford of Bengal’ because of its enriched educational standard. It has also given a glorious political scenario of the district of Nadia with its (i.e., the district’s) active participation in different political movements since the time of Srichaitanya of Nabadwip. This Chapter has also highlighted the rich political legacy of Nadia.

**Chapter-III** gives a vivid picture of the enriched tradition of political movements in Nadia. It mainly depicts the rich political tradition of Nadia in terms the First and the Last Civil Disobedience Movements in India. Srichaitanya of Nabadwip of Nadia had organized in India the First Civil Disobedience Movement against the arbitrary and unjust injunction (i.e., order of prohibition) over the Baishnava cult of Sankirtana, promulgated by the Kazi Saheb, the local Muslim ruler of Nabadwip, and he (Srichaitanya) had achieved a glorious success in the Movement to get the injunction withdrawn by the Kazi Saheb himself. It has also highlighted the Last Civil Disobedience Movement in Nadia in the form of ‘No-
Tax Movement’ at Tehatta, a village of Nadia, which was launched in 1932-33 in favour of the Second Civil Disobedience Movement organized by Mahatma Gandhiji all over India in 1931-32 in course of the freedom movement in India. This Chapter has thus upheld the glorious tradition of the district of Nadia in the field of politics and political movements.

Chapter-IV gives a compact picture of the historic ‘Quit India’ movement at the national level in India in 1942. It has given a description of the historical background scenario of the movement, nature of the movement, course of action of the movement, action of the freedom-loving Indians in the movement and the reaction of the imperialist British Government to repress their action and suppress the movement as well and also the tragic end of the movement. Influenced by the Gandhian Mantra of ‘Do or die’, millions of Indians had organized the last heroic life and death battle of the struggle for India’s independence. But all their valiant efforts were ultimately controlled and suppressed by the mightier repressive power of the British Government. And the movement had failed at last.

Chapter-V gives a compact picture of the nature and organization of the ‘Quit India’ movement in the district of Nadia. The Nadia District Congress Committee (NDCC), being the Nadia branch of the All India Congress Committee
(AICC) of the Indian National Congress, had taken the lead to organize the ‘Quit India’ movement in Nadia. The NDCC had, of course, two branches at that time, namely, 1) Suspended NDCC, follower of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose and his ideal of armed struggle against the British Government in India to achieve India’s independence and 2) Ad-hoc NDCC, Follower of Mahatma Gandhi and his ideal of extreme opposition to the Subash Chandra Bose’s proposal of armed struggle against the British Government. But when the AICC had adopted the historic Resolution of the heroic ‘Quit India’ movement in its emergent session in Bombay at the deep night of the 8th August, 1942, then both the NDCCs (Suspended and Ad-hoc as well), having forgotten all their ideological differences, had joined hands to organize and launch the ‘Quit India’ movement in the district and they both had, in fact, jointly popularized the movement all over the district. Along with the NDCCs the Nadia branches of the Forward Bloc (FB), the Congress Socialist Party (CSP) and the Revolutionary Communist Party of India (RCPI) had also actively joined the movement and performed a lot of serious pro-movement activities in order to make the movement quickly spread all over the district of Nadia and to popularize it throughout the district. This Chapter thus gives a detailed account of the historical background of the movement in Nadia and also of the real nature of the movement in the district.
Chapter-VI gives an overall picture of the course of action of the ‘Quit India’ movement in the district of Nadia. The movement was organized both in the town areas and the rural areas of the district. It was launched on both the modes of operation, namely, 1) Overt non-violent constitutional means like pro-movement meetings, processions, demonstrations, hoisting of national flag on the tops of the Government offices and buildings and so on and 2) Covert violent sabotage means like removal of railway lines, fishplates and signal posts, cutting of wire of railway and telegraph, burning of railway stations, trains, post offices, Government record rooms, Governmental camps for the refugees, robbery of postal money bags, political dacoity and so on. It is in this way that the historic ‘Quit India’ movement was vigorously launched all over the district of Nadia. This Chapter thus depicts a clear picture of the actual course of action of the movement in the district.

Chapter-VII gives a detailed analysis of the character of the movement in the district of Nadia and also of the nature of mass-mobilisation in the movement. The leaders and political workers of Nadia had efficiently organized as well as mobilised the people of the district in favour of the movement. The people of the district were so influenced and mobilized by them that they (i.e., the people) had whole-heartedly participated in the movement at its early phase. They had supplied money and shelter to the leaders and workers of the movement to help them organize and launch the movement all over the district. Besides, a few socio-
economic organizations had also helped a lot in the organization and popularization of the movement all over Nadia. Moreover A few bulletins, newsletters, newspapers etc like the 9th August (in English), Raktakta Biplab (in Bengali), and Mukti Dak (in Bengali) etc. had made a laudable contribution to the organization and also to the quick expansion of the movement throughout the district. The movement was thus heroically organized in the district of Nadia. This Chapter thus gives a compact picture of the nature of mass-mobilization in favor of the movement in the district of Nadia.

**Chapter-VIII** gives a detailed picture of the attitude of the different political parties in India towards the ‘Quit India’ movement in India. It is true that the plan of the ‘Quit India’ movement was a political contrivance of the Indian National Congress (INC); and the Congress had thus whole-heartedly organized the movement. Besides, the Forward Bloc (FB), the Congress Socialist Party (CSP) and the Revolutionary Communist Party of India (RCPI) had also actively participated in the movement and joined hands with the Congress in order to organize and launch the movement in India. But the Communist Party of India (CPI) had not only refused to participate in the movement, but opposed it too very strongly due to its international contact with the socialist Soviet Union and the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (CPSU) which were the staunch supporters of the war-efforts of the British Government in the Second World War and were
quite opposed to any movement against the Government in India. Besides, the Hindu Mahasabha and the Muslim League had not also participated in the movement. This mixed attitude of acceptance and refusal of the all-India bodies of the Indian political parties towards the ‘Quit India’ movement had also been thoroughly reflected in the case of the movement in Nadia. This Chapter has thus depicted a complete picture of the attitude of the Nadia branches of the Indian political parties towards the movement in the district.

**Chapter-IX** is about the end of the ‘Quit India’ movement in the district of Nadia. There were, of course, a few reasons behind the sudden end of the movement, namely absence of continuing leadership, lack of proper organization, lack of definite programme of action, high degree of freedom-loving emotion of the people of Nadia unaccompanied by reason and grass-root organization, extreme poverty of the common people of the district, great famine of Bengal in the very early period of 1943, repressive policy of the British Government and so on. In fact, the repressive measures of the Government like police harassment and atrocity and military repression had broken the morale of the people of Nadia to continue the movement and the Government had thus completely controlled and suppressed the movement by its mightier coercive power. This Chapter thus indicates the sad end of the movement in the district.
Chapter-X is all about the findings of the in-depth study of the research. The findings highlight that the ‘Quit India’ movement in the district of Nadia, despite being a vigorous and vivacious freedom-seeking effort of the freedom-loving people of Nadia with the help of both the modes of operation, namely, 1) overt constitutional mode and 2) covert violent mode, had, however, gradually lost the support and participation of the common people of Nadia and ultimately become quite limited to the periphery only of a few influential leaders and workers of the district mainly due to the police repression and military atrocity. This Chapter thus analyses the actual nature and gesture of the movement in the district of Nadia. It also highlights the key findings of the study. On the basis of the findings, this Chapter depicts the actual trend and Tendency of the movement in the district.

**Key Findings:**

Analyzing all the information-materials and data, collected from the available sources and the interviews with the political personalities of the district of Nadia who had organized and launched the movement in the district in 1942, the following findings have been obtained.
1. The ‘Quit India’ movement in the district of Nadia was mainly a deep-passioned and highly emotional freedom-seeking efforts of the political leaders and workers of the district.

2. The movement was although an unsystematic one in as much as the leaders and workers of Nadia had never followed any well-ordered system of action while organizing and launching the movement in the district.

3. The movement had suffered a lot from the lack of well-organized and continuing leadership in as much as most of the leaders and workers of Nadia were gradually arrested by the police.

4. The movement was quite an unorganized one in as much as there was no proper organization and grassroots mobilization due to the serial arrest of the pro-movement leaders and workers of Nadia by the police.

5. The movement lost its mass character due to the common people’s disenchantment with, and disengagement from, the movement because of the fear of severe police harassment and repression and military atrocity.

6. The movement was, by nature, mostly a students’ movement in as much as it had actually become a protest movement of the passionate young students with great zeal and enthusiasm for achieving independence.

7. The movement was organized on both the modes of operation, namely, overt constitutional non-violent mode and covert militant violent mode.
8. Overt constitutional non-violent mode of operation like meetings, processions, demonstrations, hoisting of national flag and so on was greatly followed in the town areas of Nadia during the movement.

9. Covert militant violent sabotage activities, like removal of railway lines, fishplates and signal posts, cutting of wire of telephone and telegraph, burning of railway stations, trains, post offices, Government record rooms etc., mail bag robbery, political dacoity and so on were severely committed in the rural areas of Nadia.

10. The movement in the district was especially marked for the serious pro-movement covert violent mode of operation in terms of gravity and extent in as much as it (i.e., the covert violent mode) had seriously embarrassed and severely irritated the local administrative authority of the British Government.

11. In order to suppress the movement in the district the British Government adopted severe repressive measures, even the measures of the use of military aircraft and of air-gunning and air-bombing as well.

12. During the movement nearly five hundred pro-movement leaders and workers were arrested. Out of them three hundred persons were sentenced from six months to three years imprisonment. But the rest two hundred arrested persons were acquitted either on the ground of lack of evidence against them or on the
execution of personal bond of not becoming associated with any pro-movement activity in future.

13. During the movement no political worker or leader of Nadia had been killed by police or military. But an incident of causing permanent blindness to a political leader was perpetrated as a result of a severe blow of a wooden ruler on the lower portion of his forehead near the eyes, given by a police officer in course of inquiry regarding the activities and the members of the ‘Action Squad’ of Nadia.

14. The woman community of Nadia had also joined the movement. The young girl students had quite bravely participated in the pro-movement meetings, precessions, and demonstrations. Besides, the motherly women had also helped a lot the leaders and workers of the movement organize, launch and popularize the movement by giving them food, cloths and safe shelter.

15. A few socio-economic organizations of Nadia had also helped a lot in organizing and popularizing the movement throughout the district by giving the leaders and workers of the movement shelter and money as well.

16. A few journals, newspapers and periodicals had also prepared the ground work of the movement in Nadia, in as much as they used to continuously enthuse the people regarding the movement with their even exaggerated news about the flowing success of the movement.
17. The movement was primarily organized jointly by both the Nadia District Congress Committees —Suspended and Ad-hoc Committees—. But the movement was really expedited throughout the district by the pro-active participation and highly pro-movement activities of the Nadia branches of the Forward Bloc (FB), the Congress Socialist Party, (CSP) and the Revolutionary Communist Party of India (RCPI).

But the Nadia branch of the Communist Party of India (CPI) had not only not participated in the movement but strongly opposed it too due to its politico-ideological support for the socialist Soviet Union which was an ally of the British Government in the Second World War. Besides, the Nadia branches of the Muslim League and the Hindu Mahasabha had not also joined the movement.

18. The great famine of Bengal in 1943 had completely shattered the pro-movement passion of the people of Nadia. Due to the acute dearth of food grains during the famine, the consideration of bare survival had overshadowed the passion of the common people of the district for the movement; and the starved and hungry common people of Nadia had thus become disillusioned with the movement.

19. The British Government had also weaned the common people of Nadia from the movement by giving them temporary jobs in the wartime military operation
like the construction of the military air bases and the run ways for the military aircrafts, building of military camps and shelter sheds for the war-victim refugees and so on.

20. The movement in the district was emotionally romanticized by the magic mantra of Gandhiji of ‘Do or die’. The leaders and workers and even the people of Nadia, having thus politically romanticized, raised a great wave of pro-movement romanticism in the district during that period in the name of the movement.

These are the key findings, obtained from the systematic study of the available information of the research work.

**Conclusion**

We do, therefore, conclude that the ‘Quit India’ movement was strongly organized in the district of Nadia in 1942 with a view to raising a mass protest against the imperialist rule of the British Government in India as well as to expediting the speed of the last heroic battle of India’s independence in its own geographical periphery. The leaders and workers of Nadia and even the common people of the district had quite valiantly organized and launched the movement all
over Nadia with a great sense of nationalism and a deep desire for national independence. They had very passionately organized the movement throughout the district on both the modes of operation—overt constitutional mode and covert violent mode. The movement in the district had thus taken the shape of a true freedom revolution, though in the micro level of the district. In fact, their pro-movement activities were so grave and serious both in gravity and extent that they had really irritated and harassed the local authority of the British Government in India; and the authority had thus, under the direction of the Government, taken severe repressive measures along with police atrocity and military repression to control their pro-movement activities as well as to suppress the movement as early as possible.

It is, however, true that the ‘Quit India’ movement in the district of Nadia, despite being a failure one, had quite efficiently and effectively released the pent-up feeling of deep resentment of the people of Nadia against the British Government in India. Though eventually crushed by the mightier power of the British Government, the movement had quite positively raised the deepest sense of nationalism of the people of Nadia and successfully upheld their sincere desire for India’s independence. It is true that the movement was a passionate pro-movement effort of the freedom-loving people of Nadia for achieving India’s national
independence. It was thus an embodiment of their sense of true nationalism indeed. Herein remains the real political significance of the ‘Quit India’ movement in Nadia indeed.

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## INTERVIEWS

With the Participants in the ‘Quit India’ Movement in the District of Nadia

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<th>Name of the Interviewees</th>
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<tr>
<td>1. Achintya Majumdar</td>
<td>01.06.1985</td>
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<td>2. Asim Kumar Majumder</td>
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<td>3. Baidyanath Pramanick</td>
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<td>4. Balai Goswami</td>
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<td>8. Dulal Bose</td>
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<td>10. Gopendra Nath Mukherjee (Postal interview)</td>
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<td>11. Gour Chandra Kundu</td>
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<td>15. Manoranjan Sen</td>
<td>29.05.1985</td>
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<td>16. Mihir Ranjan Dey</td>
<td>08.07.1985</td>
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<td>17. Mohankali Biswas</td>
<td>07.07.1985</td>
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<td>18. Narayan Kumar Dutta (Postal interview)</td>
<td>16.07.1985</td>
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<td>19. Niranjan Modak</td>
<td>15.07.1985</td>
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<td>20. Nitai Paul</td>
<td>08.07.1985</td>
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<td>21. (Smt.) Rekha Roy (Majumdar)</td>
<td>31.05.1985</td>
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<td>22. Salil Kumar Paul</td>
<td>06.06.1985</td>
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<td>23. Sanat Mukhopadhyay</td>
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<td>24. Shibaram Gupta</td>
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25. Shiba Kumar Chattopadhyay : 27.02.1985
26. Shyampada Bhattacharyya : 15.07.1985
27. Smarajit Bandyopadhyay : 14.02.1985
28. Sudhir Kumar Chakraborty : 28.05.1985
29. Tinkari Bhattacharyya : 05.07.1985
30. Tripura Prasad Bagchi : 08.08.1985