

Research article

Revisiting the *Ranis* of Rani Jhansi Regiment: A journey of glory and bravery

Ratna Ghosh  

Department of History, Bhatter College Dantan

Abstract

India's struggle for becoming an independent nation involved combined efforts from both within and outside the country. Militant groups and bases abroad, particularly in countries like Thailand, Malaysia, Japan, and Germany, parallelly participated in the Indian liberation from the hostile British tyranny. Germany secretly supplied arms to the Bengal freedom fighters to raise ammunition against the English government. In Japan, an aggressive revolutionary activist, Rash Behari Bose, pioneered the Indian National Army (INA) with a strong determination to expel the British from India. In the subsequent years, the Indian Independence League (IIL) and the Rani Jhansi Regiment (RJR) were formed. The present article throws light upon the nucleation and expanding growth of these militant groups and illustrates their contribution to India's struggle for independence. The paper reports the life of the *Ranis* during the war and glorifies the bravery with which they fought alongside men to liberate their motherland.

Keywords

INA, IIL, RJR, *Ranis*, independent nation



Introduction

During World War II, East, and Southeast Asia were the primary centers of operations for banished Indian rebels such as Rash Behari Bose, Baba Amar Singh, Baba Osman Khan, and Swami Satyananda Puri. Rash Behari Bose organized several disintegrated powers in Southeast Asia working towards the freedom of India into the IIL in Tokyo in 1924. In due course of time, several branches of the League burgeoned in this region.

On 17 December 1941, the invasion of Pearl Harbour officially marked the entry of Japan into World War II. Japan fought the war as an Axis power against the Allies, of which Britain and British India were

Article History: Received: 10 Sept 2023. Revised: 25 Sept 2023. Accepted: 30 Sept 2023. Published: 5 Oct 2023

Copyright: © 2023 by the *author/s*. License Bhatter College, Dantan. Distributed under the terms and conditions of the Creative Commons Attribution (CC BY) license (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>).

Citation: Ghosh, Ratna. 2023. Revisiting the *Ranis* of Rani Jhansi Regiment: A journey of glory and bravery. *Bhatter College Journal of Multidisciplinary Studies* 11.1

<<https://bcjms.bhattercollege.ac.in/v11n1/v11n1ss04.pdf>>

a part. Rash Behari Bose grasped the opportunity to organize two conferences in Tokyo and Bangkok in March and June of 1942, respectively. These conferences turned out to be instrumental in strengthening the IIL. Bose constituted a Council of Action within the IIL to manage and conduct the Indian independence movement from abroad.¹ Bose presided as the Chairman of the Council, which undertook the responsibility of establishing the INA, also known as the Azad Hind Fauj and the Azad Hind Bahini, as an inseparable wing of the IIL.

The INA was officially formed on 1st September 1942 with twenty-five thousand soldiers. INA grew in size to forty thousand soldiers in quick time. However, the formation of the Azad Hind Fauj was riddled with obstacles. Mohan Singh had a fallout with the Japanese authority as well as with Rash Behari Bose. The setback caused an irreparable split in the texture of the Azad Hind Fauj. Later, Rash Behari Bose arranged a meeting in Singapore on 30 April 1943 to reorganize the League and rebuild the INA a new.

During the open meeting of the conference, Rash Behari Bose announced that the Japanese government had agreed to bring Subhas Chandra Bose to East Asia. He declared that Subhas would succeed him within a short span of time.² The arrival of Subhas infused renewed vigor and enthusiasm among the Indians living in South-East Asia. Keeping to his commitment, Rash Behari Bose handed over the reins of the IIL to Subhas on 4th July 1943 in front of a massive gathering in Singapore. Subhas formally accepted the responsibility on 25th August and started working on strengthening the army.

RJR: The Women's Force

It is crucial to note that even before Netaji reached Southeast Asia, there existed a women's wing in the IIL that was primarily engaged in looking after the patients in the hospitals and the ailing in the homeless camps. Alongside, they preached among the women how they could contribute to the Indian freedom movement.³ In April 1943, Dr. Swaminathan announced in her speech in Singapore that, for the first time, women had been called upon by the men to stand by them and work together. She assured everyone that she would lead the women's section to the best of her ability.⁴ Her inspirational speech attracted a lot of supporters who decided to lend their helping hand as soon as the women's section was started.

The IIL formed a broadcasting department under the supervision of K. P. K. Menon. The broadcasts were made in English, Hindi, and other regional languages from Bangkok and Saigon radio stations, at times by Dr. Swaminathan herself as well as by other INA officers.⁵ The primary objective of these broadcasts was to apprise the countrymen of the ongoing developments about the INA, the IIL, and the strong support received from Japan. They would often mention the names of officers and soldiers so that their family members would know that they were keeping fine.

Pratima Ghosh played a vital role in the IIL. At her residence in Bauto, near Rangoon, Rash Behari Bose had opened a branch of the IIL to teach women how to fight for their country's freedom. Ms. Ghosh reminisced,

I used to go door to door accompanied by the women from our neighborhood, procuring articles of exhortation for the warring soldiers... I also got the opportunity to deliver lectures and broadcast news in English through the Azad Hind Radio, thereby making a little contribution to the freedom of our country under the leadership of Netaji.⁶

Another worker of the League, Ms. Kamala Das, reflected on her involvement, saying,

The offices of the IIL had been set up at different places in Burma before the establishment of the RJR there... At that time, the members of the Azad Hind Fauj began to organize meetings to discuss the foundation of the RJR at Netaji's hideout in Singapore. These meetings were presided over by the officers of the League. It was then that the Rani Jhansi Camp started at a place called Thingangyun. This development was intimated to us by the League. Two of my sisters, Aruna *di* and Maya *di*, joined the Thingangyun Camp.⁷

Ms. Das added ,

The League carried out broadcasting and administrative functions for the Azad Hind Fauj. The RJR was a part of the League.⁸

In the words of Ms. Das, after the formation of the Jhansi Camp at Thingangyun,

Col. Lakshmi opened a women's wing of the IIL. At times, she attended the women's meetings in person to explain what kinds of work needed to be done by the non-military girls. I attended these meetings along with the other women of Kamayat. Some of our main tasks included preparing cloth bandages, weaving sweaters, collecting necessary things for the patients of the INA hospital, and depositing all these in the League office.⁹

Captain's Entry

Dr. Lakshmi Swaminathan was enthused when Netaji first expressed his desire to form the RJR. She engaged renowned barrister Mr. Yellappa, who was then serving as the President of the Singapore chapter of the IIL, as her associate. The importance of organizing a women's forum resonated with Mr. Yellappa. He came up with some measures to turn Netaji's dream into reality. He organized an informal meeting with Mrs. M. K. Chidambaram, the Chairperson of the women's section of the IIL, and Dr. Swaminathan to discuss the role of women in the impending war. They decided to call for a women's gathering on 12 July 1943, where Netaji would deliver a lecture to clarify the mission of the women's wing and exhort the participants to enroll themselves in the group.¹⁰

It was resolved that Netaji would be accorded the 'Guard of Honour' at the congregation by women carrying rifles with bayonets in their hands. She went to their houses along with Mrs. Chidambaram and selected twenty girls who would pay the military Guard of Honour to Netaji. Mr. Yellappa arranged for the training of the girls with the help of two senior *habilders* of the INA. To learn about the rules of military ovation, the girls had to rehearse in a disciplined manner about carrying the heavy 303 rifles of the soldiers of the INA.¹¹ Dr. Swaminathan writes in her autobiography,

It was most encouraging to see how these two experienced campaigners patiently explained the different parts of the rifle in full detail and then taught us how to perform the Guard of Honour. They spent three hours that afternoon and three more the next morning till our arms ached as never before.¹²

On the day of the meeting, there was a mammoth gathering as people thronged in batches from far and wide. At the onset of the meeting, the Ranis welcomed Netaji by garlanding him, followed by singing patriotic songs. There had been scant time for preparing Military 'Urdu' for the Ranis. So, the girls gave Netaji a military welcome in white sarees and blouses by skillfully operating the rifles. Netaji was totally unaware of all these affairs, but he was overwhelmed by the stupendous display by the girls. General Shah Nawaz Khan writes, "There was great enthusiasm amongst the ladies, who were always as anxious and as willing as the men, to sacrifice themselves for the sake of Indian independence."¹³ There is a mention of this event in the 'Diary of a Rebel Daughter':

12th July 1943. The women's branch of the Indian Independence League arranged for a huge meeting of girls. Netaji delivered a speech there. People listened to it with rapt attention as if they were swallowing every word that he spoke. Women came in rallies to the meeting from ten to twelve miles away.¹⁴

Following the warm welcome, Netaji delivered a lecture. He said,

From the very onset of the new awakening in India, our women have played a prominent part in every sphere of public life... In fact, I will not be exaggerating when I say that there is no sphere of public activity, no department of national interest, in which Indian women have not played a conspicuous part. Moreover, Indian women have gladly accepted and shared all kinds of pain and suffering with our men over the course of the decades of our national struggle... And last but not the least, our brave sisters have also played a remarkable role in the secret revolutionary movement, and they have shown that when the need arises, they could, like their brothers, shoot very well.

The time has now come for us to make the last and final effort to achieve the liberation of our Motherland... As I said the other day, there is but one thought in our minds, there is but one cry – 'ONWARD TO DELHI, ONWARD TO DELHI!' The campaign, which begins here in Syonan, will end only when we drive the British out of India and occupy our Metropolis. And then, we shall finally parade in celebration of our victory before the famous Red Fort of Delhi... I am convinced that until and unless Indian women play their part in the national struggle, India can never hope to become free.¹⁵

RJR: Growth and Development

On 13th July 1943, the day after the congregation of women, Mr. Yellappa informed Dr. Swaminathan that Netaji wanted to talk to her about the RJR in detail. It was a special day in Dr. Lakshmi's life. In her autobiography, Dr. Swaminathan has written about this meeting, "I was thrilled at the honour but also slightly apprehensive because I knew that I would now have to make a complete break with my old life and embrace one of adventure and danger."¹⁶ In another essay, Dr. Swaminathan writes that in the context of the present world, especially our country, the national character has degraded so badly that it would be improper to enclose women within four walls anymore. They need to understand their responsibility for education, health, and civic problems. For this, it is necessary to get rid of the shackles of thralldom. To achieve that, women have to appear on the battlefield, equipped with arms and ammunition.

After a prolonged discussion, Netaji made her aware of all the potential calamities that lay ahead before she assumed the role of the captain of the women's troop. He did not hesitate to apprise her that he would not be able to give her even the minimum protection. But Lakshmi, without even thinking twice, agreed to take over the charge of the Captainship of RJR with unconditional support and felt grateful for being entrusted with this responsibility.

For the first time in the history of India, a regiment was formed with female soldiers. Dr. Swaminathan, the acting head of the regiment, described it as an unprecedented and unforgettable step. In her words,

Netaji was convinced that no country could be free if the women of the country did not actively participate in the fight for freedom ... Netaji was not satisfied with merely creating the RJR. His resolute faith in gender equality led him to appoint a woman minister in the cabinet of the provisional government of Azad Hind.¹⁷

RJR became operational on 14 July, 1943. Netaji appointed his private Counselor (Secretary) Abid Hassan to help Dr. Lakshmi Swaminathan with her work. As per Hassan's proposal, Lakshmi started off the preliminary work through discussions with the 20 girls who had welcomed Netaji to the gathering on 12th July with military salutes and greetings. However, only fifteen of them joined the Rani Jhansi Bahini as volunteers, as the rest had kids to look after. Lakshmi writes, "We were very strict in our selection. We had to pick and choose the very best among them."¹⁸ From 15th July onwards, Lakshmi started training the girls on the premises of the IIL in Singapore. Within a fortnight, the number of volunteers increased from 15 to 50. The girls arrived at their training centers early in the morning and stayed till evening. Gradually, the strength of RJR climbed up to 100.

On 16th July 1943, the female wing of IIL in Singapore called for a meeting¹⁹ that was presided over by Mrs. Chidambaram and Smt. Saraswati. An important resolution was adopted in that meeting. It was decided that besides joining the League, a selected few from the women's contingent would accompany the troop of soldiers to look after the ailing and wounded fighters. Smt. Labanya Chatterjee was one of the dedicated members who joined the nursing unit to serve the wounded.²⁰

In the meeting of 16th July, Dr. Lakshmi stressed that in this last war for Independence, every Indian man and woman should be ready to sacrifice his or her life for the sake of their motherland. Those who would like to join the army or the Red Cross unit must devote themselves wholeheartedly to the cause, even if it means renouncing worldly pleasures and sacrificing their lives. Even the ones who would not be able to give up their families must contribute to the cause in other ways - old sarees could be used to prepare bandages, given that there was a massive shortage in their supply. Old garments that seemed unfit for use could well be supplied to them; help in any form was appreciated. 'I know this can be done from behind the curtain. It is a herculean task. Your help in this regard is invaluable'.²¹

Lakshmi set off for Malaysia in September to recruit women for the 'Nari Bahini' and the Red Cross unit. She delivered speeches before huge congregations of women, stressing the importance of moral values and appealing ardently to the Indian women in the audience to join the fight to free India from the fetters of Western imperialism. During her speech in Selangor on 25 September 1943, Lakshmi, dressed in her military attire, said:

The independence we want for India is not for men alone. It is for the whole country composed of men and women. So, if men are doing their share, I ask you what have you to offer? ... I am sure, you women of Selangor are not going to be behind men.²²

She stressed that if men and women fought in unison, there would be a great repercussion among the people in India.

Lakshmi appealed to the audience, especially the women, to have absolute confidence in Netaji. She reminded everyone that Netaji was a dedicated soul for Mother India. He had travelled all over the world and was fully aware of the political and military systems of all countries. There was none more eligible and efficient than him within India and outside who could steer this movement better. So, it was the duty of everyone to devote themselves to his cause and obey him unquestionably.²³ She concluded by saying,

Unless we are prepared to sacrifice our utmost, in property and blood, we are not going to have Swaraj... You may propagate Hindustani as our *lingua franca*. You can collect old clothes to dress wounded soldiers. Many ways are open to you.²⁴

Upon her return to Singapore from Malaysia, Lakshmi became busy with establishing a camp for the women recruits. Yellappa resolved the issue by building an accommodation for 500 girls in a deserted Australian camp in the neighborhood of the central department of IIL. It was decided that Netaji would

inaugurate the camp on 22nd October. Meanwhile, Lakshmi persuaded Smt. Satyabati Thevar, the Principal of a school in Kuala Lumpur, to join her as Sub-Commandant by the first half of October. Smt. Thevar was a very disciplined person and quickly adapted herself to the life of a soldier. Though she was 40, she engaged herself in military training. Moreover, she herself was very eager to form a troop of women. Over time, she gained much recognition and was promoted to the post of 'Lieutenant' as per Netaji's proposal.²⁵

Mahatma Gandhi's birthday on 2nd October was celebrated with pomp and splendor at every corner of South-East Asia at the behest of Netaji. Irrespective of caste and creed, the women of RJR joined the celebrations. The women came marching not in sarees, but in military uniform – something they retained till the last day of World War II. On 10th October 1943, the *Young India* wrote –

The Rani of Jhansi Regiment also took part in this procession, and for the first time, all volunteers of this regiment were seen in their military uniform. The regiment looked very smart and throughout the march they were the recipients of vociferous cheering. The regiment was headed by Dr. S. Lakshmi and the regiment was indeed an eloquent testimony to the great organizing ability of their leader.²⁶

Formation of an Independent Government: The Azad Hind

21st October 1943 was a red-letter day in the history of the Azad Hind Fauj. On that day, Subhas Chandra Bose announced the formation of an independent interim government, the Provisional Government of Free India, at the Cathay Cinema Hall of Singapore. Before the formation of this government, Subhas Chandra had asked Lakshmi if she was ready to join his cabinet as a minister. Lakshmi wrote in her autobiography: "I was totally unprepared for this; recognizing that an honour was being conferred not on me individually but on Indian womanhood, I accepted."²⁷ Thus, Lakshmi Swaminathan was not only the first female military chief, but also the first female minister of the Government of Independent India.

Inauguration of the Camp

On 22nd October, the birthday of Rani Lakshmi Bai of Jhansi, Netaji decided to inaugurate the camp of RJR to commemorate the day. RJR had been a long-cherished dream for Subhas Chandra Bose - ever since his days at the Congress Ground at Park Circus. During the journey from Kiel to Madagascar in a submarine, Subhas was formulating plans about the formation of the Regiment and dictating them to his companion, Abid Hassan, who penned them down meticulously. This is when their submarine came under a sudden attack. Hassan recounted the traumatic experience of that day:

Through the negligence of the man at the controls, our submarine surfaced. She came up on the surface just when the order to release the torpedoes was about to be given. Seeing the submarine thus exposed, the captain of the freighter, which was now not far removed, reacted immediately and turning his ship in our direction bore down on us at full speed to ram us. 'Dive!' the captain shouted his orders, 'Dive! Dive!!'. But having surfaced by mistake, the order to dive could not be immediately carried out, although ordinarily, it would take less than a minute to do so. Moments, as our Captain was reminding in his orders, separated us from sure death, and to me, it appeared natural that everyone should be scared. Everyone, I think, was scared and I could imagine what I looked like seeing death reflected in some of the faces I could see. Not everyone was scared, not Netaji, "Hasan", he remonstrated, "I have repeated a point twice and you are not noting it down."²⁸

The submarine dived as soon as Netaji's instruction was heard. Hasan, quite ashamed, began to jot down with trembling fingers as his heart skipped a beat. Abid wrote,

And the point Netaji was making in the draft of his speech to the women of India when this incidence took place, was that they, given the choice between death and dishonor, had always opted for death. He, however, did not want them to jump into flaming pyres but ride out into the field, sword in hand as the Rani of Jhansi did.²⁹

Thus, it seemed natural to him that they would stand beside the men with weapons in hand while fighting the British army. He first thought that shorts and bush shirts would be the appropriate uniform for the women in the Regiment. Abid wrote, keeping in mind the sartorial heritage of Indian women, their habits, and inhibitions, he developed his argument neatly. He also prepared a speech to ward off hesitation and objection of any kind. As a result of his cogent speech, the women of the Regiment agreed to wear the dress as decided by Netaji.³⁰

On the auspicious day of the inauguration ceremony of RJR, Netaji arrived at the field along with a few of his cabinet ministers. After a warm welcome from Mrs. Chidambaram, RJR dedicated the Guard of Honour to him in military style under the leadership of Captain Lakshmi. Sub-Commandant Smt. M. S. Thevar showed Netaji around the entire division – a group of 150 women, all clad in grey uniform and armed with Dutch or Canadian rifles in their hands. It was a sight to behold for Netaji – he was beside himself with joy. The Indian and Japanese officers too were spellbound to see the women performing the military salute. It is worth noting in this context that when Netaji first announced his plans for a women's regiment, there was an air of apprehension about its achievability. But there it was now for one and all to witness - a troop of armed woman soldiers! After the military welcome, Netaji hoisted the tri-colored national flag at the camp, with the national anthem being played in the background.³¹

Mrs. Chidambaram started off the function with her inaugural speech, as she announced how apt it was that the establishment of the Azad Hind Government was being declared on the birth date of one of the most courageous soldiers of the nation, Rani Lakshmi Bai of Jhansi. Captain Lakshmi, the Secretary of the Women's Wing of IIL of East Asia, followed up with a brief outline of her manifesto on the future course of the freedom movement:

We have gathered here this evening to celebrate the birthday of that most illustrious daughter of India – Rani Lakshmi Bai of Jhansi – and I am sure you will all agree that the only way in which we can pay true homage to her memory and avenge her death at the hands of our British enemy is by sacrificing our all in the final struggle for independence. Today, we Indian women in Southeast Asia are starting on the most glorious journey in our history – a glorious journey which we begin here in Syonan but will end only in Delhi when our beloved Netaji hoists the flag of free India on our ancient Red Fortress. I shall give a brief account of the events which have gone to make this historic day.³²

Netaji's plan of action, which began with the historic war cry '*Delhi Chalo*' against the British, not only called upon the men but also provided a window of opportunity for the women to get involved with the movement. Efforts were made to gather all Indian women in Southeast Asia under one banner for enrolment in RJR as volunteers. Lakshmi was amazed at the overwhelming response, given that most of the applicants had neither seen Netaji nor heard his speeches in person. And yet, they had so much confidence in him and his leadership that they were ready to devote their life to his cause – such was the aura of Netaji.

At Syonan, the training started on 19th July, wherein the trainers of the Azad Hind Fauj gave them some preliminary lessons on defense and warfare and also spoke on First Aid. Given the scarcity of places for the training center, it was a temporary setup. Later on, training centers were opened at the center

of Seletar Navy, Johar Bahara, and Penang. In these centers, there was no military training; only First Aid and the Hindustani Language were taught in these classes.³³

Lakshmi's Remarks and Netaji's Belief

Lakshmi reflected on the successful formation of RJR:

We were fully rewarded for our initial enthusiasm as Netaji during his tours and on every occasion made special mention of the Rani of Jhansi Regiment, and the part we women were expected to play in the coming struggle ... Finally, to you our beloved Netaji, on behalf of every one of us, I give you this most solemn assurance: we have forsaken and forgotten our old lives of comfort and security and we are ready to follow you. We shall never betray the trust and confidence you have placed in us. Night and day, we shall prepare ourselves for the task ahead – never even once faltering however long and perilous the journey may be, for we are all confident and certain that you will lead us to victory.³⁴

Declaring the camp open, Netaji said,

The opening of the Rani of Jhansi Regiment Training Camp is an important and significant function; it is a very important landmark in the progress of our movement in East Asia... Our past has been a great and glorious one. India could not have produced a heroine like the Rani of Jhansi, if she did not have a glorious tradition ... If for the war of independence of Jhansi, India had to produce, and it did produce, a Lakshmi Bai, today for the war of independence of the whole of India to liberate 38 crores of Indians, India has to produce and shall produce thousands of Ranis of Jhansi... 156 of our sisters are going to start their training in the camp, which is being opened today. But I hope that their number at Syonan will reach 1000 very soon. Training Camps for women have also been started in Thailand and Burma, but at Syonan, we have the Central camp, and I feel that in this Central camp, we should at least have one thousand potential Ranis of Jhansi.³⁵

Conclusion

Militant groups in East and Southeast Asia have played a major role in India's struggle for independence. Leaders like Rash Behari Bose and Subhas Chandra Bose pioneered military troops and paved the path for the exponential growth of IIL and RJR, respectively. Women have significantly contributed to the cause through their active participation in different capacities. The formation and subsequent development of these armed forces alongside the invaluable role played by the *Ranis* in RJR will forever be remembered and written in golden words in the history of India's struggle for an independent nation.

Notes & References

1. Uma Mukahpadhyay, "Ananyya Biplabi Rashbehari Basu", *Jayashree* (in Bengali), p. 56.
2. K. K. Ghosh, *The Indian National Army: Second Front of the Indian Independence Movement*, p. 132.
3. Interview with Lakshmi Sahgal, Kanpur, dt. 08.07.2001.
4. Sabitriparasanna Chattapadhyay, *Subhas Chandra O Netaji Subhas Chandra* (in Bengali), pp. 132-133.
5. Lakshmi Sahgal, *A Revolutionary Life: Memoirs of a political activist*, p. 42.
6. Interview with Pratima Ghosh, Salkia, Howrah, dt. 01.04.2000.
7. Interview with Kamal Das, Kolkata, dt. 02.02.2000.

8. Ibid.
9. Ibid.
10. File No. 411/ INA.
11. Interview with Lakshmi Sahgal, Kanpur, dt. 08.07. 2001.
12. Lakshmi Sahgal, op. cit., p. 56.
13. Major General Shah Nawaz Khan, *My Memories of INA and its Netaji*, p. 1.
14. File No. 866/ INA.
15. Sisir K. Bose and Sugata Bose (eds.), *Netaji Collected Works*, Vol. 12, pp. 55-59.
16. Lakshmi Sahgal, op. cit., p. 57.
17. Lakshmi Sehgal, "Rani Jhansi Regiment", *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, 23.01.1971, p. 12.
18. Jag Parvesh Chander, Meet Col. Lakshmi, p. 18.
19. File No. 102/ INA.
20. Interview with Labanya Chatterjee, Kolkata, dt. 02.09.2005.
21. Rohini Gawankar, *Captain Lakshmi Ebang Rani Jhansi Bahini: Ekti Akathito Itihash*, (Ed.) pp. 171 – 172.
22. Speech of Dr. Lakshmi, Commander, Rani of Jhansi Regiment, T. R. Sareen, *Indian National Army, A Documentary Study*, Vol. 2, p. 190.
23. Ibid, pp. 190 -191.
24. Ibid, p. 191.
25. Sisir K. Bose and Sugata Bose (eds.), *Netaji Collected Works*, Vol. 12, p. 418.
26. Sailesh De, *Ami Subhas Bolchi*, Tiritiya Khanda, (in Bengali), pp. 62 -63.
27. Lakshmi Sahgal, *A Revolutionary Life Memoir of a political activist*, p. 57.
28. Abid Hasan Safrani, *The Men from Imphal*, p. 15.
29. Ibid, p. 16.
30. Ibid.
31. K. S. Giani, *Indian Independence Movement in East Asia*, part – II, p. 81.
32. Ibid.
33. Ibid, pp. 81 – 82.
34. Ibid, p. 83.
35. Sisir K. Bose and Sugata Bose (eds.), op. cit., pp. 124 -127.

Bio-note of the Author

Dr. Ratna Ghosh is Head and Associate Professor in the Department of History, Bhatler College Dantan, Paschim Medinipur. She is also the Coordinator of PG Curriculum in the same department. She completed her Bachelors from Bethune College, Kolkata and pursued her Masters in Modern History from Calcutta University. She obtained her Ph. D. in 2011 from Vidyasagar University on *Subhas Chandrer Narichetana O Rani Jhansi Bahini* (published by Netaji Bhavana Manch, Kolkata, 2021). She has jointly edited a book entitled, *Panchayat System in India: Historical, Constitutional and Financial Analysis* with Prof. Alok Kumar Pramanik (Kanishka Publishers, New Delhi, 1999). In 2006, she has edited two volumes on *Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose and Indian Freedom Struggle – Vol. 1: Subhas Chandra Bose: His Ideas and Vision*, Vol. 2: *Netaji and Indian National Army (INA)* (Deep & Deep Publications Private Limited, New Delhi). She has also edited another two volumes on *The Study of Social History – Recent Trends* (Progressive Publishers, Kolkata, 2013, 2015). Dr. Ghosh has actively participated in several national and international conferences. She has also published research papers in reputed journals both in India and abroad.