

Courageous Freedom

Compiled by

Mumuksha Porwal (AIF Intern)

1. Birsa Munda (15th November 1875 -9th June 1900)

Born on 15th November 1875, Birsa spent his childhood across the belts of the village of Jharkhand and Bihar. He belonged to the Munda tribe and joined the German Mission school by converting to Christianity on the recommendation of his teacher. Knowing British colonial rules and their misdeeds, he started to have faith in 'Birsait'. Soon after, the Munda and Oraon tribes joined it to challenge British conversation activities. He spent his time close to Sardars centre and got inspired to join anti-missionary and anti-government programs. On 3rd March 1900, he was arrested by British police during his sleep and died in Ranchi jail on 9th June 1900, at 25. With a life of just 25 years, he forced colonial officials to introduce laws protecting the land rights of tribals.



2. Khudiram Bose (3rd December 1889 - 11th August 1908)



Khudiram Bose was born on 3rd December 3, 1889, in Mohobani village in West Bengal. His life was full of hardships. He lost his mother at the age of 6 and his father just a year later. At 15, he became a volunteer in the 'freedom struggle'. He had a fearless revolutionary spirit and was caught by Britishers while distributing pamphlets. At the age of 18, he planned to assassinate a judge with his friends. He was caught and put to trial and hanged at 18 for attempting an assassination at a young age.

3. Prafulla Chaki (10th December 1888 -1st May 1908)

Prafulla Chaki was born on 10th December 1888 in Bogra district and lost his father early. His mother raised him. He was into revolutionary activities from childhood and was an active member of Bandhab Samiti, organizing cultural activities. He was expelled from his school because of his revolutionary participation. He met anti-British revolutionary Barindra Kumar Ghosh and went to Calcutta to join the Jugantar group. He also planted a bomb in the car along with Khudiram Bose. After this, police caught him, but he committed suicide at 19 years at the station. His death was greeted with tears and anger by Bengal revolutionaries and inspired them to liberate India from British rule.



4. Pritilata Waddedar (5th May 1911 - 24th September 1932)



She was born in Chittagong and was a good student at school. While studying at Eden College, she developed her anti-British sentiments along with her friends and joined Deepali Sangha, a revolutionary group. She was inspired by revolutionary leader Surya Sen and joined an underground group. At the age of 20, she and her associates devised plans to raid the armoury of the British forces and destroy their telegraph and telephone lines. In 1932, Waddedar was assigned to attack the Pahartali European Club in Chittagong because of its discriminatory activities towards Indians. The club got attacked on 23rd

September night, and she got a gunshot. To avoid arrest, she consumed potassium cyanide. She was just 21 years old.

5. Baji Rout (5th October 1926 - 11th October 1938)

He was born in Dhenkanal, Odisha and was the youngest freedom fighter killed at 12 years. He was a boat boy and was shot by British police when he refused to ferry them across the Brahmani River on 11th October 1938 at Nilakanthapur Ghat. He was an active member of Banar Sena of Prajamandal. The British forced him to cross the river, but he refused and got shot by them. He is remembered in the poem "Boatman " by Sachidanand Routray.

