Rebellion in the Raj

The Women Who Fought for Freedom



Chapter 7:

Kanaklata Barua

Swipe

A Seventeen-year-old Girl

In 1942, as the Quit India Movement swept across India, the call for freedom reached even the small village of Barangabari in Assam.

Among those listening was seventeen-year-old Kanaklata Barua, who had grown up hearing stories of India's struggle against British rule. She joined the ***Mrityu Bahini,*** a group of young volunteers who were ready to risk their lives for India's freedom.

When the moment came to rise against the British, she stepped forward.



Swipe

The Flag That Never Fell

In September 1942, she joined a peaceful procession for hoisting the tricolour flag at the Gohpur Police Station.

As the procession approached the police station, armed British officers ordered the protesters to stop. However, Kanaklata continued forward, holding the tricolour firmly in her hands.

The peaceful march soon took a tragic turn. When the protesters refused to turn back, the officers opened fire.



Swipe

The March That Changed Assam

A bullet struck Kanaklata, but even as she fell, she refused to let the tricolour touch the ground.

Mukunda Kakoti, another young freedom fighter in the procession, stepped forward, took the flag from her hands, and continued the march. Moments later, he too was shot and killed.

Together, their sacrifice became a powerful symbol of courage and resistance in India's freedom struggle.



A Sacrifice Remembered

At just 17 years old, Kanaklata stood unarmed before an armed colonial force, carrying the tricolour and an unwavering belief in freedom.

Kanaklata's sacrifice shows us that courage has no age.

Her story reminds us that India's freedom struggle belonged not only to its leaders, but also to its students, farmers, workers and ordinary citizens who were brave enough to resist colonial rule.



The Women Who Fought for Freedom

Women across India challenged British rule with courage and determination.

Phulo and Jhano, Uda Devi, Velu Nachiyar, Kuyili, Avanti Bai, Bhikaji Cama, Rani Gaidinliu and Kanaklata remind us that the freedom struggle was shaped by numerous voices, many of them belonging to women who refused to bow before oppression.

Their stories may have faded from memory, but their bravery and courage live on in the story of our nation.

