

Amar Saheed Baji Rout

The youngest patriot of 12 years of age Baji Rout fondly called as Bajia sacrificed his life for the cause of his motherland. Sahid Baji Rout was born in October 5th 1926 at Nilakanthapur village in Dhenkanal District in a poor Khandayat family. He had lost his father from a very early age. His mother had to work in different houses just to feed him.

During the Praja Mandal Movement in Gadjat State of Odisha, the people of Dhenkanal had taken a pledge to throw out the British rule. On 11th of October 1938, 11th the sky was dark and heavy rain was lashing along-with thunder and lightning the young boy Baji Rout along with some volunteers of the Praja Mandal was guarding the Brahmani river ghat with his boat. It was his turn that day to guard the ghat against the Britishers so as not to let them cross the river. Baji Rout also acted as spy on the activities of British and informed the camp. While guarding the ghat that night little Baji dozed off. In the midnight the police army with guns in their hands these sepoy's ordered him to ferry the boat as thousands of people of Bhuban village were after them. Baji Rout came to the rescue of the volunteers and the Banar Sena and when threatened by the British force clearly said not to allow them cross the river. Baji Rout said it was the strict order of the Praja Mandal not to ferry the British. The raging sepoy's instantly fired at him. Before closing his eyes for the last time courageous Baji Rout Called out to the Prajamandal members shouting that the police force was at the ghats. The people immediately rushed to the Ghats and in the darkness tied the boat ropes on to their waists and tried to stop the sepoy's from crossing the river. The British sepoy's were scared of the mob as they had killed people in the nearby Bhuban village and were trying to flee from the spot. The name of little Baji Rout will forever be etched in golden letters in the annals of Odisha history and will continue to inspire generations.
