

NATIONAL GALLERY OF MODERN ART
Ministry of Culture, Government of India

VISUAL ARCHIVES OF KULWANT ROY
Curated by Aditya Arya

Exhibition
2nd August to 7th September, 2014
Daily from 11:00 am to 6:00 pm
(Except on Mondays and National Holidays)

INDIA PHOTO ARCHIVE FOUNDATION





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Journeys with a Camera

Excerpt from the introduction of 'Journeys with a Camera' by the author. The text discusses the author's experiences of traveling across the country and the role of the camera in capturing these moments. It mentions the author's travels in the 1930s and 1940s, and how the camera became a companion on these journeys. The text is in Hindi and is presented in a clean, sans-serif font on a white background.



कैमरे के साथ यात्रा

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The Indian National Congress and the INA Trials

In late 1945, a single event dominated headlines to the extent that it all but swept news of the freedom struggle off the front pages. That was the court-martial of three officers of the Indian National Army (INA) whom the British decided to hold on public trial at the Red Fort in Delhi. Since the officers were Sikh, Muslim and Hindu respectively, anger peaked across communal lines, galvanizing and unifying communities in their outrage. The flags of the Indian National Congress and the Muslim League flew side by side in a wave of protests, the last time such unanimity would ever be seen.

The INA had a chequered past. Originally constituted in 1942 under the leadership of Capt Mohan Singh after the fall of Singapore, in its first avatar it comprised some 20,000 soldiers of the vanquished British Indian Army being held as POWs by the Japanese. With the arrival of Subhash Chandra Bose in Singapore, the INA assumed its second avatar. "Give me blood and I will give you freedom," was the ringing cry of Netaji; in response, fresh volunteers were added from amongst the many Indian expatriates in Malaya and Burma in the campaign to liberate India fighting along with the Japanese.

With the defeat of the Japanese in their ill-fated U-GO campaign, the INA was an army in retreat. Many soldiers and officers fell into British hands and were sent back to camps in India to await trials and a salutary punishment for treason.

In Kulwant Roy's photographs we see how the full weight of the Indian National Congress was thrown behind the INA in total support. Its leaders, beginning with Mahatma Gandhi and including Sardar Patel, Jawaharlal Nehru and Sarojini Naidu, are seen in a series of morale-boosting meetings with the soldiers, as Capt Ram Singh, composer of the rousing "Kadam kadam badhaye ja", plays the violin. A practical measure of support was the assembling of a formidable seventeen-member Defence Committee for the trial, some of whom – including legal luminaries like Bhulabhai Desai, K N Katju, Asaf Ali and Pandit Nehru himself – are seen in these images. This rare documentation includes a picture of Capt (later General) Mohan Singh, leader of the first INA.

Roy's photographs capture the solidarity and determination of Congress leaders to secure the release of the prisoners and suspension of their trials. Such documentation further galvanized mass support and public fury; the resulting political fall-out hastened the end of the Raj.



Members of the Defence Committee, 1945.



Members of the Defence Committee, 1945.



A large crowd of people, possibly a public meeting or protest.



A large crowd of people, possibly a public meeting or protest.



A group of people standing together, possibly a group of soldiers or officers.



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DR. COWASJI JEHANGIR PUBLIC HA





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in collaboration with
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Presents

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Former Supreme Court Judge

Guest of honour
Mrs. Pheroza J. Gandhi
Chairperson, Advisory Board,
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on Friday



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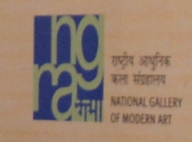


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Do not touch exhibits

Silence Please

No Smoking

SHARAD KUMAR

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ADITYA ARYA

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JUSTICE B. N. SRIKRISHNA

PHEROZA J. GODREJ

RAJEEV LOCHAN



North-West Frontier Province:
The Apostles of Peace



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SHIVAPRASAD KHENED

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