

27th February 1931

Chandra Shekhar Azad
killed by a police bullet

Malwinder Jit Singh Waraich*

On that fateful day Azad was to meet Sukhdev Raj for consultation in Alfred Park, Allahabad, at 10 AM and he had just reached there when Police surrounded them. Firing started on both sides. A bullet hit Azad's right thigh, which made it impossible for him to keep standing. He kept fighting in crouching position; when a bullet hit his right shoulder a few moments later and his right arm got disabled. He then started firing with his left hand. He beckoned Sukhdev Raj to go away, who obeyed. After a few seconds a bullet hit his right temple and he attained martyrdom. Yet the Police fired a few gunshots at his feet to satisfy themselves about his death and only then they dared drawing close to him.

The myth that when Azad was left with only one cartridge, then in order to fulfill his resolve not to fall in the hands of police, fired at his right temple, is absurd because after his martyrdom he still had 16 unfired cartridges, which were recovered from the spot along with a number of empties. Moreover if he could not fire at all with his right hand, how could he raise his arm to fire at his temple? It was impossible. Above all the postmortem report rules out a self shot since in that case the skin around entry point of the bullet would be so much damaged that his facial features like nose, eyes, lips would have become too disfigured to be recognised, which are quite distinctly visible in the police photograph clicked after his martyrdom on the spot itself.

Soon after the tree, behind which Azad had confronted the police, became the object of worship and next day hundreds of persons flocked there with flowers. The government felt outraged and got the tree uprooted and destroyed.

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