

# Mangal Pandey

## Childhood & Early Life

- Mangal Pandey was born on 19 July 1827 in Nagwa, Ballia, Uttar Pradesh into a high-caste Bhumihar Brahmin family. His father Divakar Pandey was a peasant. Mangal Pandey had a sister who died during the famine of 1830. Pandey grew up to be an ambitious young man.

## Later Years

- Mangal Pandey joined the army of the British East India Company in 1849 as a young man of 22 years. Some accounts suggest that his recruitment was a random event—he was recruited by a brigade that was marching past him while he was on a visit to Akbarpur.

## Later Years

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- He was made a soldier (sepoy) in the 6th Company of the 34th Bengal Native Infantry. Initially he was very excited about his military career which he considered to be a stepping stone for further professional success in future. There were also several other Brahmin young men in his regiment.
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- A new Enfield rifle was introduced into India and the cartridge was rumored to be greased with animal fat, primarily from pigs and cows. To use the rifle, the soldiers would have to bite off the ends of greased cartridges in order to load the weapon.

Mangal Pandey, a staunch Hindu Brahmin, was enraged by the alleged use of lard in the cartridges. He decided to take violent action against the British to show them his disapproval.

On 29 March 1857, Mangal Pandey, armed with a loaded musket, paced in front of the regiment's guard room by the parade ground, inciting the other Indian soldiers to revolt against the British. Several other men were with him. The Indian soldier planned to kill the first European he set his eyes on.

On seeing him approach, Pandey took position, aimed at Baugh and fired. The bullet missed the British officer but hit his horse, bringing them down.

Pandey then attacked him with a talwar—a heavy Indian sword—and injured the European officer badly and brought him to the ground. At this crucial juncture, another Indian sepoy, Shaikh Paltu, intervened and tried to restrain Pandey.

## Major Works

- Mangal Pandey is best remembered for his revolt against the British officers on 29 March 1857 when he incited his fellow soldiers to join him in a rebellion against the Europeans. He managed to badly injure two English officers before he was arrested and sentenced to death. This incident is believed to have provoked Indian soldiers across the nation which led to a series of revolts all over the country in the ensuing weeks.
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- **Persona Life & Legacy**
- After being arrested he was tried and sentenced to death.
- He is considered to be a freedom fighter in India and the Indian government issued a postage stamp to commemorate him in 1984.
- Several movies and stage plays have been based on his life, including the Hindi film 'Mangal Pandey: The Rising' and the stage play titled 'The Roti Rebellion' in 2005.

## Facts and Information about Mangal Pandey

Born	19 July 1827
Religion	Hinduism
Place of Birth	Nagwa, Ballia district, Uttar Pradesh, India
Nationality	Indian
Died	8 April 1857 (aged 29), Barrackpore, Calcutta, West Bengal, India
Known for contribution as	Mutineer / Indian freedom fighter
Political Career	Sepoy (soldier) in the 34th Bengal Native Infantry (BNI) regiment of the British East India Company