



Our Indian Warriors,
staunch and true,
Have proved their
worth to all;
To guard the Flag
they dare and do—
At England's
battle call !

Image

A wartime postcard with a patriotic poem, 'Our Indian Warriors' illustrated with a Sikh cavalryman.

UKPHA Archive



Image

This match-boxed sized card (probably sold with a cigarette packet) shows a Sikh foot soldier standing in front of the flag of the Viceroy of India who ruled the country for Britain. At the centre of the flag and topped by a crown is the Star of India, a symbol of British rule. Many British people smoked and built up collections of cards.

Courtesy Satpal Singh Lal

LIONS OF THE GREAT WAR
LESSONS 2 & 3: RESOURCE J3

1 | 2



EMPIRE, FAITH & WAR: THE SIKHS AND WORLD WAR ONE | www.empirefaithwar.com
A PROJECT BY THE UK PUNJAB HERITAGE ASSOCIATION | www.ukpha.org

LIONS OF THE GREAT WAR

LESSONS 2 & 3: RESOURCE J3

2 | 2

Image

The label reads 'For the glory of the Raj (*the British government in India*) Indian troops charging German troops at Neuve Chapelle (*a major Western Front battle*), March 1915.' From 'Deeds that thrilled the Empire', a British book published in 1917.

Courtesy of Kulwant Singh Bahra Collection



Image

A Sikh soldier, Lal Singh, assists his young British officer, Lt. Smyth, to carry bombs across No Man's Land. Singh was one of ten Sikhs who volunteered for this mission. Nearly all of them were either killed or seriously injured. From 'Deeds that thrilled the Empire', a British book published in 1917.

UKPHA Archive



LIONS OF THE GREAT WAR

LESSONS 2 & 3: RESOURCE J5

2 | 2

Image

Lt. Smyth is shown leading his Sikh volunteers who crawl over dead bodies while dragging two ammunition boxes with turban cloth. This engraving, based on the work of M. Dovaston, was published in a book called 'Deeds that thrilled the Empire' in 1917.

Courtesy of Kulwant Singh Bahra Collection



Image

This newspaper cartoon shows Belgian children making fun of German soldiers by dressing up and pretending to be Indian soldiers. The child in front is calling on his troops to march on to Berlin, the German capital. What is the cartoon trying to say about Indian troops even though it doesn't show them?

UKPHA Archive

LIONS OF THE GREAT WAR
LESSONS 2 & 3: RESOURCE J7

1 | 2



LIONS OF THE GREAT WAR

LESSONS 2 & 3: RESOURCE J7

2 | 2

Image

This newspaper print, based on a work of art by F. Sancha, shows soldiers of the British Indian Army marching to fight against the Germans in Belgium.

UKPHA Archive

LIONS OF THE GREAT WAR
LESSONS 2 & 3: RESOURCE J8

1 | 2



LIONS OF THE GREAT WAR

LESSONS 2 & 3: RESOURCE J8

2 | 2

Image

This cartoon shows soldiers from the different Allied countries who fought together with Great Britain against Germany. The soldier with the turban (the Sikh) is from India. What is it trying to say about these countries?

© Illustrated London News Ltd/Mary Evans

THE DAILY MIRROR, Friday, October 2, 1914.

ARRIVAL OF INDIAN TROOPS IN FRANCE: PICTURES.

The Daily Mirror

LATEST CERTIFIED CIRCULATION MORE THAN 1,000,000 COPIES PER DAY

No. 3,414. Registered at the G.P.O. as a Newspaper. FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2, 1914. One Halfpenny.

INDIA FLINGS THE KAISER'S LIE BACK IN HIS TEETH AND SENDS HER SOLDIERS TO HELP TO CRUSH HIM.



The first picture shows General Serviers (France), who is wearing dark uniform, inspecting the men in company with a British officer. It will be noticed that they are wearing shorts. The second picture is a study of one of these dusky warriors. All of them have perfect teeth.—(Daily Mirror photographs.)



An enormous crowd watched their arrival.—(Daily Mirror photograph.)

The French boys were greatly interested.—(Daily Mirror photograph.)

India could not have given a more crushing rejoinder to the German lie about her disloyalty than she has done by sending her splendid warriors to fight side by side with the Allies. Enjoying liberty under Britain's enlightened rule, these men have no cause to love Germany or her tyrannous system of government, and they themselves asked to be allowed to take their share in the fight for freedom. The small boys of France, after the manner of their kind, were enormously interested in their Eastern allies, and the giant warriors smiled down good-naturedly on the youngsters, who in but few cases reached above their waists.

Image

News of the arrival of Sikh troops in France reaches the British public in a popular newspaper.

Courtesy of Kanwal Madra

THE SPHERE

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With which is incorporated
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DRAWN BY F. MATANIA FROM MATERIAL SUPPLIED BY A SOLDIER WHO WAS PRESENT AT NEUVE CHAPELLE

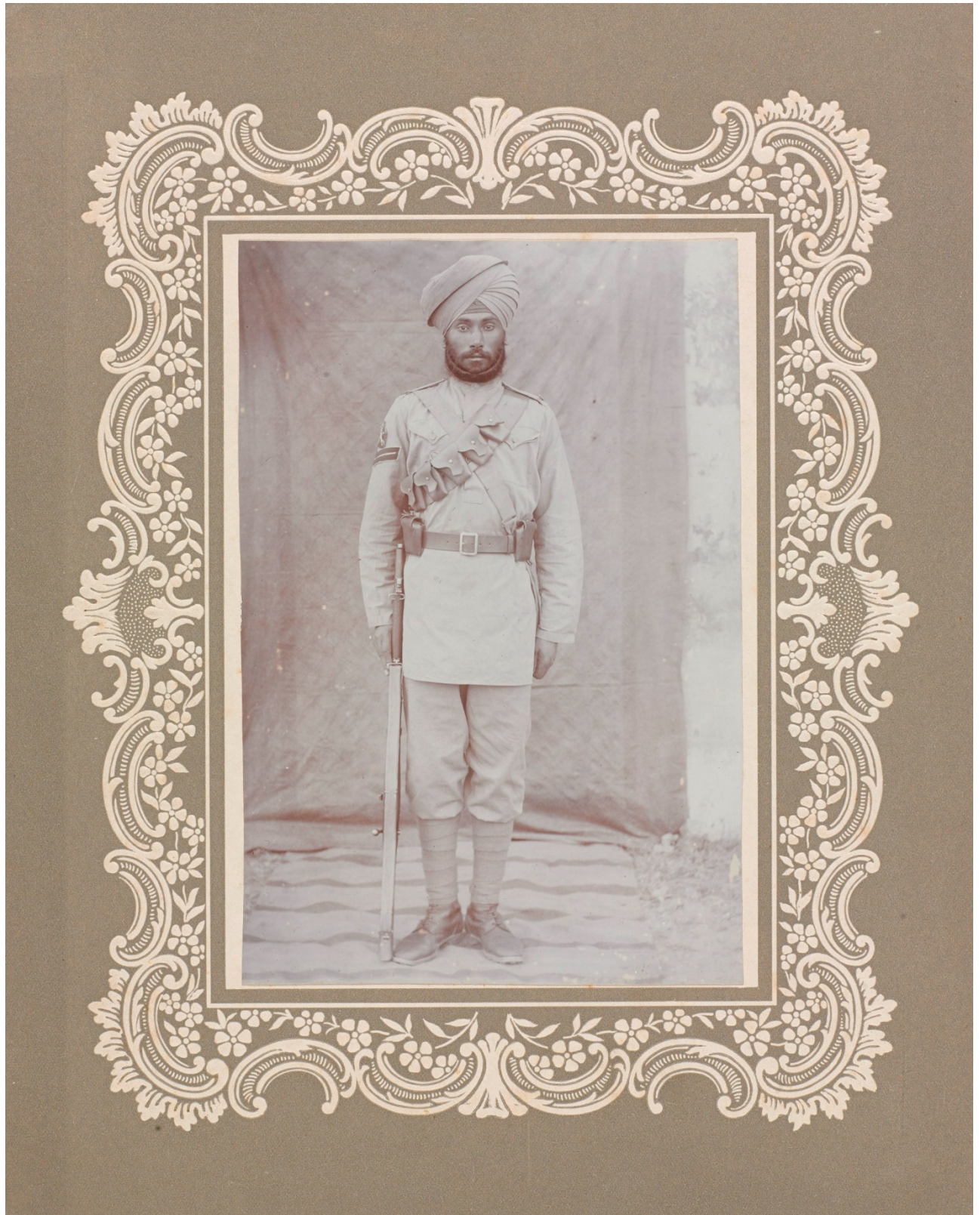
BENGAL LANCERS RETURNING FROM "PORT ARTHUR" after the CAPTURE of NEUVE CHAPELLE

During the attack on Neuve Chapelle the Indian troops played a very large and important part, co-operating vigorously with the British. The above picture shows a body of Bengal Lancers returning from "Port Arthur," where some of the most desperate fighting during the action was witnessed, the position only falling into British hands at half-past-five in the evening, after hours of continuous attack

Image

Indian cavalrymen returning from an attack against the Germans proudly display their trophies of war in a popular newspaper.

UKPHA Archive



Image

A typical Sikh naik (corporal) of the 14th Ferozepore Sikhs, c. 1910.

Courtesy of the Council of the National Army Museum, London (acc. no. 1994-05-50-716)



Image

A British postcard showing an Indian Sikh cavalryman of the Deccan Horse (an Indian regiment) charging at the Battle of the Somme on the Western Front in 1916.

Courtesy of Peter Bance Collection