HOW EUROPE IS INDEBTED TO THE SIKHS?

BHUPINDER SINGH HOLLAND

With an introduction by Dr Harjinder Singh Dilgeer

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Sikhs?

By BHUPINDER SINGH HOLLAND

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This book is dedicated to my mother who was a pious, religious, noble and humane lady; who was a dedicated Sikh and a role model for every Sikh; and my brother S. Nirmal Singh who laid his life valiantly fighting against armed robbers in Seattle (USA) and saved the lives of his son and a friend. He had learnt this Sikh tradition from Guru Tegh Bahadur Sahib who had sacrificed his life so that others may enjoy freedom.
Acknowledgement

It occurred to me in April 1998 that the tercentenary celebrations of the formation of the Order of Khalsa should be held across Europe. It would be a great honor to witness such a momentous occasion during my life.

The first century of the Khalsa passed under the Mugals as it struggled to establish the Khalsa Raj in northern India after defeating the Mugals and stopping and pushing invaders like Ahmed Shah Abdali to the other side of the Kheber Pass. Later, Maharaja Ranjit Singh managed to establish the Sikh kingdom from the river Satluj to the Indus.

The second century was passed under the British, as the Punjab was annexed by them through false means after the Anglo-Sikh Wars, and Sikhs struggled to regain their lost sovereignty.

It was my opinion that the best celebration would be to remember martyrs of the 20th century. Now the question arose: Who were these martyrs?

Surely, they are the Gaddari Babas (revolutionary) of Canada and America (1914) who left for India and started a military struggle to liberate India and were killed and hanged by the British. Then, there are the Sikh Soldiers of the First World War, who died for the freedom of others.

The Sikhs of Jallianwala Bagh Amritsar (1919), Sikhs who gave their lives for the liberation of their Gurudwaras in the Punjab (1921), Sikhs of Babbar Akali Movement 1921-22, Sikhs like Bhagat Singh (1931), Uddam Singh (1941) who shot dead the former Governor of Punjab at London (who was responsible for the Jallianwala Massacre), Sikhs of Quit India Movement (1942), Sikhs of Free Indian Army, Sikh Soldiers of the Second World War in Europe, Africa and the Far East.

How can we forget Sikhs who died during the carnage that followed British retreat from India in 1947 followed by those who died and suffered in the Punjabi Province agitation of 1952, India’s war with China (1962) and Pakistan (1965 and 1971), thousands who suffered for protesting declaration of Emergency by Mrs Indira Gandhi (1975), and during the agitations for more autonomy to all States in the Indian republic (1982). And since 1984, quarter of a million Sikhs have been killed by the Indian police for the freedom of the Sikh Nation.
Like the soldiers from America, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Britain, France, Belgium, Holland, etc. Sikhs also contributed in large numbers during the World Wars. Wouldn’t it be appropriate to honor these brave men and women in Europe where they fought and died.

For my research, I travelled several times to France, Belgium, Holland, Germany and Italy trying to locate the battle fields, cemetaries and war memorials to search for names of soldiers. A video documentary was made and released by International Sikh Youth Federation, Holland and it can be borrowed from In Flanders Field Museum, Ieper, Belgium. This film is also a tribute to all people and organisations who offered assistance in its making.

I would like to thank Mr. Dominiek, Piet Chiliens from the In Flanders Field Museum, Michel Vansuyt and others from the community. I also thank the Commonwealth War Grave Comission U.K-Belgium-France, Mayor of Ieper, Mayor of Amsterdam, Ministry of Defence and Minister President of Holland, the Government of Belgium, Dr. Calewart, Peter van Lindt, and the hospitality I received from the people of Ieper, the European Sikh community and Gurdwaras in Holland, Belgium and France.


The data that was collected was sent to the Governments of France, Belgium, Holland and other nations and we were pleased and encouraged with their response. The City of Ieper was so kind to invite the Sikh delegation through Dominiek and we were given a warm welcome.

I spoke at the Last Post Ceremony and the names of Indian soldiers, specially the Sikhs, were mentioned there for the first time. The commendable role of the Sikh army in preserving peace during the First World War was recognized. It was here that the Celebration for Peace to commemorate 300 years of Khalsa and in remembrance of Sikh soldiers of the Second World War was proposed to Ieper authorities and was accepted by the latter.

European Sikhs attended the Armistice Day on November 11, 1998 and the following year besides the Vaisakhi celebration at Ieper with Bhangra, Gatka, Sikh Exhibition, lectures on Sikh religion and history by several delegates including Dr Calewart. The monument was unveiled by the Panj Piara's and the forgotten soldiers were honoured by Governor Brijne of Flanders Province.
Since 1998 every year on May 5, the Libration Day of Holland, Sikhs from across Europe lay Krans at the National Monument of Holland. From the deep of my heart, I am sincerely thankful to:

- Mr Dominiek Dendooven, co-ordinator of the documentary centre, leper for opening the welcome door for the Sikhs to the historical city of leper where the Sikhs fought two battles during WW-I. Sikhs throughout the world admire and salute Mr. Dominiek for his tireless services to the community.

- Mr Piet Chilienis Director of In Flanders Field Meuseum, leper for preserving and displaying the photographs of the Sikh soldiers with record, letters and a full human size photo of Maharaja Bhupinder Singh of Patiala with Belgium Generals. Model of Darbar Sahib (Golden Temple) is also on display.

- Mr Luc Dehaene, Mayor of leper for receiving and honouring the Sikh delegates in the town hall of leper and at Menon Gate the National Monument of Belgium.

- Mr Paul Brijne, Governor of Flanders Province for honouring the living Sikh soldiers of WW-IT and prominent Sikh leaders throughout the whole world.

- Mr Piet Brijne secretary of leper city in organizing special function in the memory of Sikh Soldiers. Sepoy Maluk Singh of Sirsa 15th Ludhiana, the first Sikh victim of Gas Attack was remembered at Menon Gate on 26th April 1995. Thousands attended the ceremony.

- Mr Jeremy Gee OBE, Director of Northern Europe Area, Commonwealth War Graves Commission for providing the database of the Sikh soldier and the important role played by the Sikh soldiers in WW-I.

- Mr. Michel Vansuyt, President, West Vlaamse Gidsenkring, Belgium (Guide) a great admirer of the Sikhs, for showing me all the Samaadks (Graves) of the Sikh Soldiers in Belgium and France.

- Mr. & Mrs. Mevrouw Peter van Lindt, spokesman for the Belgium Sikhs, Hasselt, Belgium.

- Dr Harjinder Singh Dilgeer, a prominent Sikh Scholar for editing and writing a chapter for this book.

- SJan'nder Singh & Sardarni Rita Singh of Den Haag, SJagdish Singh
Bhura of Belgium, S Arjan Singh & Sardarni Jagdish Kaur (My brother and sister-in-law) Amritsar, my wife Sardarni Gupreet Kaur, daughter Harsimran Kaur and son S Manjot Singh HoUand, S Sarabjit Singh Soni of Amritsar, S Harinder Singh of Majitha Gas Services Amritsar, Dr Gurbachan Singh Kalsi, Dr Gurbachan Singh Bachan (former Secretary SGPC), S Beant Singh Sandhawalia for encouragement & moral support.

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An Appreciation

Next to farming, military is the most favoured occupation of the Sikhs. Many a times they take up arms for earning, yet, their urge to side with the week, to defend the poor and the oppressed, to humble down the tyrant, is a gift blessed by their Guru, in whose name they fight anywhere and everywhere. They are convinced that whether they fight in their own land or abroad, whether they live or die, victory is on their side; only that they are not to turn their back towards Guru.

The Sikhs are a well built folk. But, it is not the only factor for achieving the title of 'the finest soldiers of the world'. Guru has taught them to live with conviction, to sacrifice ever their life for it and this has set their mind to live or die for conviction, for truth and to win the battle even by losing their life. Thus, if Guru is great his Sikhs are equally great.

In the present volume 'How Europe is Indebted to the Sikhs ?' this kind of projection of a Sikh soldier achieves prominence. After losing their kingdom, they were recruited by the British Army in large numbers to fight for them in Europe and other continents. Since such a profession responds to their urge for adventure, they jointed it in good numbers.

In the wake of the First and Second World War in the western hemisphere, the British government transported Sikh army to fight for it in different battles against the enemy. It showed exemplary courage, bravery and patience in the battlefield and in the end achieved victory by defeating the mightiest. They fought in trenches, on land, in groups and in individual combats. Even heavy bombardment couldn't dishearten their resolve to win.

Sirdar Bhupinder Singh, the author of this book, is simply a lovable person. The amount of labour and consistency he has put in collecting the tales about the Sikh soldiers, their rolls, their photographs, their fighting devices, their unfailing determination and their religious motivation is undoubtedly unmatchable.

In this volume, the arm history of the Sikh soldiers is taking a shape to inspire generations of the Sikhs to learn to live with dignity and to discard any compromise with tyranny and injustice.

I wish this volume a responsible response from the mature readers/scholars and a place in every home, in every library. May Guru continue to bless his mind and pen to give many more such volumes, works and bless us with wisdom to feel obliged for such a courageous contribution.

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Who Are the Sikhs?

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A Sikh can be easily identified from amongst the crowds of hundreds and thousands. A man with beard and turban can well be easily recognised. Still some Sikhs wearing traditional dress give impression of a respectable monarch. Throughout the world one can observe Sikh men, women and children, dressed in fine clothes and colourful turbans, going towards Gurdwaros. A congregation in a Gurdwara makes one think of an assembly of heavenly people. The scared kitchen of a Gurdwara looks like the scene of a family feast where everyone seems to be trying to surpass each other to perform voluntary, selfless service.

One observes people contributing a share of their honestly earned money for Langar (scared kitchen) and trying to surpass others in performing most menial service in Gurdwara kitchen cleaning dishes, sweeping floors, washing toilets, serving guests, cleaning silt of sarovars (tanks); and all this being done by them energetically, voluntarily, devotionally, honestly, vigorously, lovingly, whole-heatedly and sacredly; and asks, "Who are these turbaned and bearded people?"

When people of the world came to know that the Sikhs were the same persons whose Ninth Master had sacrificed his life in order to ensure right to religious worship and faith to the Hindus (as well others), they were struck with wonder. It was more surprising for them to know that the Hindu rulers of India whose women folk had been forcibly taken away by terrorist Afghan invader Ahmed Shah Durrani; and the Sikhs, not bothering for their lives, had fought against a mighty terrorist invader in order to save the Hindu girls from being taken to Afghanistan for sale as sex-slaves. The world came to know about the Sikhs who sacrificed several of their comrades to restore the wife of a Hindu Brahmin who appeared at Akal Takht Sahib on April 10, 1763 and submitted a petition that his wife had forcibly been taken away by the tyrant chief of Kasur. The world was shocked to see inhuman, merciless, savage, so far unknown to history, torturous massacre of the Sikh men, women and children by terrorist Hindu mobs at Delhi and
other areas of Hindu monopoly. The world saw all this with disgust when Indian media, instead of condemning inhuman treatment of the Sikhs by terrorist Hindu mobs and leader, rather defamed the noble Sikh nation as terrorist and extremists. The world was shocked at the inhuman style of the Hindu leaders, Hindu press, Hindu elite and majority of common Hindu folk. This created in them feeling of sympathy for the Sikhs as well as desire to know as to "who are the Sikhs?" and "what is a Sikh?"

It is noteworthy that the Sikh-Punjab contributes 70% of India's wheat, rice and other grains. If Punjab stops giving or cannot provide food to India, the latter will reach the stage of starving; hence the Sikh-Punjab is the preserver of India. Similarly, the Sikh-Punjab is the arm-sword of India. It is mainly the Sikhs with turbans and beards who have always been the real defenders of India. Thousands of Sikhs have sacrificed their lives for the defence of India. The Sikhs have made sacrifices not only for India but also for the freedom of European countries like France, Italy, and Belgium as well as countries in the Far Fast and other zones in different parts of the world. The records of the martyrs and the details preserved in war memorials in France, Italy, Belgium, Holland etc. contain the name of several thousand Sikh martyrs.

Besides making sacrifices for the freedom of the western and eastern nations, the Sikhs have contributed a lot to the economy of different nations. Wherever a Sikh resides, he is known for his enterprising nature, courage, will to struggle and endeavour to make progress. One can not find a pauper Sikh in any part of the world. It is impossible to find a Sikh begging for alms. The Sikhs have played role in the progress and betterment of their country of residence. The Sikhs have contributed a lot to the prosperity of the U.S.A, England, Canada, Australia, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Hong Kong, etc. and have made sincere efforts to improve the economy of Kenya, Ethiopia, Philippines etc. Almost in every country the Sikh residents have established major business, industrial and even agricultural units which helped further in giving jobs to hundred of thousands of people. It has its genesis in the Sikh ideology of honest earning, sharing with others, humanism, love for service enterprising nature, Charhdhi-Kala (the Sikh-Euphoria), positive thinking; and a Sikh achieves all this not by any negative means but by hard work and efforts.

Daswandh (tithe), in Sikhism, is a unique institution. It is a pious duty of a Sikh to contribute a share of his honestly earned income for the needy, the poor and the weak. If a Sikh cannot find such needy persons among his nears and dears then he contributes his tithe for Gurdwara, for Langar
In Sikhism, tithe is not "donation", it is an obligatory duty, but it must not be done for exhibition nor is it an investment for any material or spiritual gain/return. In Sikhism, service in any form, is a cardinal virtue. A Sikh has an obligation to participate in some kind of service regularly. Some people consider serving in Gurdwara, in Langar (sacred Sikh kitchen) as most sacred, but it is not so. Service in any form and in any situation has the same sanctity. The only consideration is that it should be done with most humility, devotion and from the core of one's heart. A Sikh does not perform service under compulsion or coercion rather it is a matter of pride for a Sikh. One might have seen thousands of Sikhs performing Kar Sewa (usually cleaning the silt of the tanks of Gurdwaras) and in this Kar Sewa royal family, feudal and billionaire people make equal participation with utmost zeal, devotion and pride. It is remarkable that every Sikh wants to surpass the others in participating in one or another Sewa.

The concept of 'sharing with others' is no less unique in Sikhism. A Sikh feels it a pleasure in contributing a part of his income for some religious cause or for the social welfare. A Sikh believes in giving something to others and not asking for some help. However, it does not mean that a Sikh is prohibited to accept help even when one needs it. A Sikh loves in participating in social activities to the extent of feasibility. Sikh never shirks work or duty of responsibility. A Sikh is a man of words. If a Sikh promises to help to some one he shall never turn his back even if he has to pay a very high price for it. Guru Sahib themselves practised these ideals in their lives.

In Sikhism, meditation is not an imbalance approach. It is not a mere ritual or formality. A Sikh need not renounce world in order to achieve liberation or union with God. A Sikh can achieve spiritual height even as a householder. A Sikh does not believe in "other wordiness". For a Sikh there is no heaven or hell beyond this world. Living Truthful life, in noble fear of the Almighty, is heaven. Having no faith in God and living an unethical life is hell.

A Sikh does not worship gods, goddesses, idols, prophets, martyrs or heroes. A Sikh does not worship even Guru Sahib. A Sikh does not have to adopt any type of hypocritical worship or rituals. Sikhs worship only the Almighty. Concentrating on God, meditating in the Name of the Almighty, practising Truthful life, loving human beings, living in the noble fear of and performing the worship of the Almighty is the Sikh way of life. sikhs need not first worship a prophet or Guru in order to achieve union.
with the Almighty. A Sikh is a direct subject of Almighty and there is none in between a Sikh and God.

A Sikh is an enthusiastic, diligent, spirited and vivacious being. He gets up early in the morning, gets a bath, meditates in the Name of the Almighty, joins Sangat (congregation) in a Gurdwara and then begins his work sincerely. It is the discipline of a Sikh. A Sikh can not shirk work or duty, A Sikh cannot be lazy, indolent or inactive nor can he remain idle, stagnate, slothful or lackadaisical. Lethargy or life of inactivity is alien to a Sikh. A Sikh is always active, agile, robust, vigorous and vivacious. He is ever ready to do something, it may be his own work or helping/ serving others.

Punjab, The Sikh homeland, is inhabited not only by the Sikhs. There are several Hindus, Muslims, Christians, and Buddhists. Jains and others. There are several casts and creeds in Punjab e.g. Jots, Khatris, Aroras, Brahmins, Rajputs, Lubanas, Sainis, Kambojs, Gka.ma.rs etc; and these people believe in different religions. But, it is remarkable to note that when a person from the above castes/creeds gets Khande Di Pahul (the Sikh initiation) he/she becomes an altogether 'different' person. Khande Di Pahul turns an ordinary person into a vivacious, robust, vigorous, chivalrous, courageous, as well as polite, sophisticated and humane person. There is some miraculous power in Amrit (nectar for initiation) which turns a coward into a gallant, an indolent into a vigorous and vivacious person, a weak being into a mighty person, a loutish, uncouth and ungracious person into a polite and humane, an atheist into a devoted pantheist and a sant-sipahi (saint-soldier). The writers, thinkers and leaders of world have always wondered over the miracle of Amrit.

A Sikh Gurdwara has a significant role in die life of a Sikh. For a Sikh, Gurdwara is a spiritual centre. It is door of the abode of the Almighty. Besides, it is the nucleus of Sikh nation. Here, a Sikh learns how to live among others family members. Langar hall (sacred kitchen) and a hostel are usually a part of all the major Gurdwaras. It provides refuge to travelers and other needy persons. A Sikh must play an active social role in his life. A Sikh has an obligation to contribute something positive to the society. Guru Sahib themselves practiced the same in their own lives. Guru Sahib built several Sarovars (tanks), Baolis (deep wells), gardens, inns (hostels) etc. and taught the Sikhs that they too should practice the same as that was a part of their duty towards the Sikh brotherhood.

Earning honestly; sharing with others; serving humanity; defending the weak, the poor and the suffering people; contributing Daswandh (tithe);
achieving prosperity by doing hard work, efforts and struggle; opposing injustice and tyranny; performing one's job honestly; working hard to grow food for the people of the world; performing one's duty honestly; always telling truth; practising honesty in every situation; never cheating, stealing or snatching; never encroaching upon others' genuine rights; never tolerating nor being a party to injustice; always being polite; never hurling the feelings of others; always contributing one's share for service of mankind, is the real Sikh way of life.
Basic Tenets of Sikhism

Sikhism is a unique religion. These principles can be called the ideology of the 21st century and the new millennium. The basic concepts of Sikhism can be summed up as follows:

1. Honest Earning:

   The first and the foremost cardinal principle of Sikh culture is honest earning. A Sikh cannot earn his livelihood by dishonesty, stealing, sinful acts, corrupt means, smuggling etc. A Sikh can't even become a beggar. A Sikh may adopt any profession or business (agriculture, industry, trade etc.) or may join any type of job, but he/she shall have to practise it honestly and as per Sikh ethics. However, a Sikh can't adopt a profession that is specifically forbidden in Sikhism (e.g. trade of drugs or tobacco, a barbershop, running a brothel or sale of Halal meat). Though no other jobs and trades are forbidden to a Sikh, but even in such jobs and trades, there is no place for dishonesty. A Sikh can't encroach upon the wealth or rights of the others.

2. Sharing with others:

   The second cardinal principal of Sikhism is "sharing one's wealth, income and art with others". Guru Nanak Sahib said that only those persons are eligible towards the path of liberation who not only earn their livelihood honestly, but also share their earnings, wealth and art with others.:
   He, who eats what he earns earnestly
   And from his earnings shares something (with others) He alone, O Nanak! knows the true way of life. (p. 1245). Bhai Gurdas, a famous Sikh writer (of Guru Sahib's times) detailed this concept in his verses in details. He explained that a Sikh should first feed the others and live himself upon that that has been left with him (after feeding others).

Guru Nanak Sahib's message of "sharing with others" is also known as Daswandh (tithe). The Tenth Nanak told the Sikhs to contribute one tenth of their income for the Sikh national cause. Daswandh is a fundamental duty of a Sikh. It is obligatory and not optional. If a Sikh does not contribute his tithe, he is a debtor. One must pay one's debt before freedom (liberation). One has to pay it, sooner or later. However, a Sikh does not have an obligation
to pay his/her Daswandh in Gurdwara only. One may spend it for other religious, social and national activities.

3. Meditation:

Some writers, under the impact of Vedant and Brahmin-ism, have tried to define Sikhism as 'religion of meditation'. It is not true. Meditation is obligatory for a Sikh, it is an inseparable part of a Sikh's life but mere meditation is not everything in Sikhism. Meditation helps an individual's self, but a Sikh is also a part of community (the Sikh commonwealth) and it makes prayers for the welfare of the whole of the world. A Sikh makes such prayers at least twice a day but even in this prayer he does not beg anything for himself. The Sikh prayer is a national (in fact universal) prayer. A Sikh prays: "O God, give your (all the) Sikhs (not for a particular person), the gift of Sikhi (die Sikh way of life)". Sikhism is a brotherhood, a commonwealth of the subjects of Almighty. So, the Sikhs don't think of begging anything for themselves. It is for the whole of the Commonwealth. But, on the other hand, the only thing craved by a Sikh for oneself is 'meditation'. It does not, however, mean that meditation is non-essential, less important or optional. It is obligatory. Guru Sahib said:
None can achieve liberation without meditation.
One can concentrate under the guidance of a Guru (enlightener).
(p. 1175) and

Among all the religions the best religion is:
Meditation in the Name of God and Truthful living (p.266)
Meditation is not the mere recitation of His Name. To remember the Almighty every moment, to have His noble fear, and, to love Him from the core of one's heart, too is meditation.

4. Annihilation of terrorism:

It is an essential part of a Sikh's religious duty that he should join the crusade to bring an end to terrorism. In Sixth Nanak's words: "A Sikh must stand for the defence of poor, weak and downtrodden; and, he should endeavour to bring an end to terrorism, cruelty, injustice and in-humanism". A Sikh must not allow injustice being done to any one. It is impossible for a Sikh to turn a cold shoulder to injustice and cruelty.

But, if a Sikh himself perpetrates, collaborates or supports injustice, in-humanism, cruelty etc., then he is the greatest sinner on this earth. He is, in fact, an enemy of the Sikh nation. A Sikh has to struggle for the cause of
Righteousness. He may choose any method or strategy to achieve this goal. A Sikh can not side with a cruel, terrorist, unjust or inhuman person.

Japanese are brave people. They showed exemplary courage and made unbelievable sacrifices for their country but their chivalry was obliterated by their cruelty. Similarly, if a valiant and a brave Sikh acts in an unjust or cruel manner or is a killer of innocent people, his sacrifice becomes futile, A valiant and brave person can never be cruel, terrorist or inhuman. In Sikhism, even militancy has its ethics (i.e. the Sikh ethics of the battlefield). It is an obligatory duty for a Sikh to participate in bringing an end to injustice, cruelty, terrorism and in-humanism and one should participate in this crusade to the extent of one's capacity and possibility.

5. Pray for the whole of humanity:

A Sikh must make prayer at least twice a day and the most important part of this prayer is to seek God's blessing for the prosperity of the whole of humanity. A Sikh's prayer is never personal or individual, it is always national, it is in fact universal. A Sikh wishes die welfare of the whole of humanity, not as a formality, but he makes such prayers from the core of his heart and throughout his life, twenty four hours a day.

It is remarkable that before a Sikh puts first morsel of his meals in his mouth he prays "O God thank you for blessing me with meals. I pray you to grant every human being better than this." A Sikh may make this prayer by uttering die above words from his mouth or may have such a feeling in his heart, but if he takes his meals without this feeling, dien he eats 'die meals of sin.' This part of Sikh religious culture makes Sikhism a religion not only of die 21st century but also the forthcoming millennia.

6. Be ever thankful to the Almighty:

It is die duty of a Sikh to always be grateful to the Almighty. A Sikh must attribute all his achievement to the Almighty. If a Sikh has even the slightest feeling that he has achieved anything or a situation due to his own labour, efforts, power, capability, qualification etc. then he is surely farther from Sikhism. A Sikh's faith in the Almighty is to such a great extent that he attributes everything to the Almighty. One, who does not have complete faith in the Almighty's Blessings, is not a genuine Sikh. A Sikh can't even complain that God has given him less than he/she deserved. For a Sikh, the Almighty knows better as to what has to be given, to whom, at what time and in what manner. A Sikh must always have complete 'and full faith in His Benevolence.
7. To bow before His Will:

A Sikh can not forget to bow before His Will. He/she must always live one's life as per His Will. A Sikh always believes in the principle

*What pleases You, O Nanak! that alone is the good deed (p. 1239)*

and

*Your doings are sweet to me. Nanak craves for the wealth of God's Name, (p. 394).*

*I shall always meditate upon His Name, You may give us joy or pain (p. 757)*

A Sikh bows before His Will in thick and thin. He accepts the Almighty's Orders by saying (even in pain): "This, too, is Your gift (hence I love it).

8. Sewa (service)

Sewa (voluntary, selfless service) is one of the cardinal principles of Sikhism. If a Sikh has numerous qualities but does not have love for Sewa, he is an incomplete and an imperfect Sikh. In other words, he is just a half-Sikh. A Sikh considers 'Sewa' as a great Blessing. He/she loves to serve with his/her mind, body and spirit in doing this. Sewa inducts, in a Sikh, the feeling of humbleness, patience, generosity, purity etc. One who performs Sewa, considers him a useful part of brotherhood. Sewa brings an end to vanity, selfishness, haughtiness, pride and ego. Sewa is a step forwards towards the path of liberation (self-realisation).

If we perform acts of Sewa in this world

*Only then we can achieve a place in the court of the Almighty (p. 26)*

and

*If we shun ego, perform service,*

*then we can have honour in His Court (p. 474)*

and

*If one serves without the desire for a reward*

*he can achieve union with the Almighty (p.286)*

While doing Sewa one must keep two things in his mind: (!) One should not discriminate between person and person or one and another while performing Sewa (2) Sewa should not be done just for show. One, who just performs Sewa for show, is a hypocrite and his Sewa is futile, and, is not acceptable to the Almighty. He, rather, becomes a greater sinner:

*One who does it (Sewa) as an act of rivalry*

*is a self-willed person without understanding*

*If some one does it with pure heart,*

*his service is accepted in the court of Almighty (p. 286)*

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Similarly, one who does Sewa with the thought of self-praise or self-disgrace, he is not considered real service-doer in the court of the Almighty (p. 51).

9. Langar and Pangat:

Eating Langar (the sacred community food) by sharing equal status with the so-called low-caste people, is of utmost importance in Sikhism. According to the Sikh culture, sacred community kitchen is a must for each and every Gurdwara. Everyone, present in a Gurdwara, has an equal right to serve and dine in a Langar-hall. Broadly speaking, food cooked in each and every Sikh's kitchen (home), too, is Langar and if a Sikhs family takes its meals without serving a visitor, it is believed that something was definitely missing in that house at that moment.

Langar, as some have wrongly called it, is not free food/kitchen. It is in fact "sacred community kitchen". A Sikh gets spiritual food from Gurbani (hymns) and learns brotherhood, humanism, ethics, culture and national feeling from Langar.

10. Charity:

There is no concept of charity (in the meanings of alms) in Sikhism. A Sikh must not beg nor give alms. Making offerings in Gurdwara is not charity as a Sikh can not be a giver. In Sikhism, God is the only Giver. We receive everything from Him, hence, we are nobody to give anything to Him. Making offerings in a Gurdwara, contributing funds for any cause, Daswandh (title) etc. are like giving back a tiny part of the debt of the Almighty. Daswandh is a Sikh's duty. Performing one's duty is not an act of kindness or gratitude, it is an act of discharging of an obligation.
Who is a Sikh

Once, someone asked me a question: "what are the merits of a Sikh ?"
A short answer to this question was not an easy task. It needed several
pages to explain it because a Sikh (a genuine Sikh) is an image of the
sketch of a superman. Sikh is also defined as 'saint soldier'. Again a
question arises, "what is a saint and what is a soldier?" This, too,
again, needed a lot of explanation. Finally, it was decided that I should
mention 20 virtues of a genuine Sikh.

1. A Sikh believes in one and the only God who is Omnipresent,
   Omnipotent, All-pervading, Eternal, Infinite; who is the Creator,
   Sustainer, Destroyer; who existed in the beginning, exists now and
   shall remain existent forever; who is not born (hence does not die);
   who has no chosen subjects; who loves everyone alike; who can not be
   defined in words.

2. A Sikh is not afraid of any power on this earth. A Sikh neither
   fears nor frightens anyone. But, a Sikh always lives in the noble fear of
   the Almighty.

3. A Sikh has no enemy. He does not have disdain for anyone. A
   Sikh does not hate anybody. But, a Sikh does not forgive cruelty and
   inhumanism. It is a Sikh's duty to fight for Righteousness. Otherwise,
   a Sikh is not supposed to have hatred, jealousy, partiality or revengeful
   attitude for any one on this earth. A Sikh is ever ready to forgive
   wrongdoing of an innocent person. Pity and forgiveness are must for a
   Sikh. If someone comes to a Sikh with a pure heart and with a desire
   for repentance, a Sikh must forgive him. However, inhuman killers,
   terrorists and those who have perpetrated atrocities on people must be
   punished and should not be forgiven.

4. A Sikh does not have negative thinking. A Sikh is always
   positive in his approach. A Sikh has constructive approach and does
   not have destructive thinking. To strengthen truth and justice and to
   bring an end to injustice is obligatory for a Sikh.

5. A Sikh is always in blissful feeling. He always bows before the
   Will of the Almighty. A Sikh always sings hymns in die praise of the
   Almighty; it may be an occasion of birth, marriage or death, it may be
   joy or sorrow. Keertan (singing hymns) is a part of a Sikh's spiritual,
   personal as well as social life.
6. A Sikh's spiritualism and physical personality go side by side. Lethargy and laziness are evil for a Sikh and activity and endeavour are virtue for him. Early rising, regular shower, meditation is an essential routine of a Sikh. Light diet should be the liking of a Sikh. A Sikh likes to eat such a food, which does not lead him to vices. Meaning thereby, there is a special relation between a Sikh's spiritualism and his health.

7. A Sikh loves the concept of equality. Langar (sacred community kitchen), Sangat (holy congregation), Pangat (joining Langar as equals. In other words equally in community activities) are an essential part of the Sikh cultural ethics. To join congregation like equals and brotherhood is first and foremost thing for a Sikh's religious culture. Joining Sangat in Langar hall, sitting in a Pangat and sharing sacred community food with all and sundry brings an end to ego. the Sikh Langar (sacred community kitchen) brings an end to inferiority complex of the poor and the lowly as well as the superiority complex of the so-called rich and feudal. Strictly speaking, the concept of low and high, senior and junior is alien to Sikhism. In Sikhism colour, caste, age, status, gender are of no consideration. A Sikh has to adopt this culture not only in the Langar-hall but he has to keep it with him throughout his life and in all situations.

8. A Sikh always lives in Charhdi Kala (the Sikh euphoria). A Sikh can never live in decadence nor can he ever get demoralised. He always has the feeling that 'tomorrow will be better'. Everything that has happened is the Sweet Will of the Almighty. On February 5,1762, about half of the Sikh population was killed in a carnage but the Sikhs still announced that "our alloy has melted away and we have become pure metal, i.e. gold." Baba Bota Singh and Baba Garja Singh, only two Sikhs, could declare national sovereignty. Forty Sikhs at Chamkaur and Khidrane Di Dhab (now Muktsar) could fight mammoth armies. An eight months long siege of Gurdas Nangal did not dishearten the Sikhs. A Sikh never bows down his head, nor does he make compromises when he is in pain or suffering. Pain, suffering, problems, crisis make a Sikh stronger still. The feeling of Charhdi Kala is, in fact, life for a Sikh. To thank the Almighty for each and every phenomenon is the duty of a Sikh. A Sikh always considers His Blessing as bountiful. A Sikh attributes everything of his being to the Almighty

9. A Sikh is a positive part of the society. A Sikh earns his livelihood by honest means. Unlike Brahmins, a Sikh does not live on alms or charity. A Sikh can never be a beggar. A Sikh always tries to give something to others and does not like to live on others' assistance. A Sikh's
prosperity is a result of his endeavour and his enterprising nature,

10. Sikhism is a culture of fraternity. Sharing one's earnings as well as wealth is basic to Sikh culture. A Sikh has an obligation to earn honestly. Besides, he must share his prosperity with others. To help the needy and the poor is the foremost duty of a Sikh. To avoid helping needy persons is alien to Sikh culture. A Sikh can not be selfish. A Sikh does not live for himself only. Sikhism is essentially a social spiritualism.

11. A Sikh can not live in stagnation. He always makes efforts to go further and further. Progress and prosperity of the Sikhs throughout different parts of the world is an example of the Sikhs' enterprising nature. Sikhs have achieved prosperity not by toddling others or by snatching from others or by usurping the rights of others, Nor is cheating, robbing or dishonesty the basis of the Sikhs' progress. All Sikh prosperity has in its background, their enterprising nature, hard labour, intelligence etc. Sikhs have achieved heights because they have always worked sincerely and honestly. Their wealth is always hard earned. It is a part of the nature of a Sikh that he always looks forward, never stops on his way towards achievement of his goal, continues struggling. It is the nature of positive thinking in a Sikh, which has made him full of desire for progress and reform. But, a Sikh's thinking is not that of a Malik Bhago (the symbol of a usurper). A Sikh may be rich but he can't be a usurper. A Sikh's prosperity is not achieved through encroachment upon others' wealth or rights. Moreover, his prosperity is for the betterment of his family and his brotherhood. It is for the welfare of the Sikh nation and a Sikh is ever ready to contribute for such a cause.

12. A Sikh does not fear death. A simple thought of death frightens the whole of the world but, for a Sikh, it is the Will of the Almighty. A Sikh always bows before His Will. For a Sikh, die physical body is nothing but a structure of five elements and exit of spirit from body is the end to the being of a person. It is like finale to the role of a human on this earth. Death, for a Sikh, is the step for proceeding towards the next stage/destination. It completes a person's journey in this world as this world is just an inn for every human being that is just a passenger on this earth.

13. A Sikh always keeps his word. If a Sikh promises help or defence of anyone, he/she will stand by his/her commitment even at the cost of his/her life. The Sikh history is replete with several events narrating 'Sikhs sacrificing their lives in order to save Hindu girls from terrorist foreign invaders'.
14. A Sikh is never biased, partisan or partial. For a Sikh all the human beings are the children of the Almighty and they should be treated alike. The history of the Sikh-Red Cross, established by Guru Gobind Singh Sahib, under the command of Bhai Ghanaiya Singh, explains this concept. Bhai Ghanaiya Singh is known in the history as one who would treat even the wounded soldiers of the army of the enemies of the Sikhs in a manner as he would treat the Sikh soldiers. For him a wounded person is not a Sikh or an enemy but he was a human being, hence deserves alike treatment. A Sikh shall never be biased or partial in favour of or against any one. If one wishes to learn the lesson of humanism, generosity, mercy, sympathy, love, justice one should go through the pages of the Sikh history or the Sikh culture.

15. A Sikh is the greatest "host" on this earth. A Sikh loves to feed others before eating anything himself. This writer still remembers the words of his mother: "the day when no one shares food with us seemed to be an incomplete day. The food of that day becomes tasteless." It is well known to the whole of the world that the greatest free food camps have always been arranged by the Sikh nation. The Sikhs are known as feeding hands. Feeding others is the greatest pleasure for a Sikh.

16. A Sikh must always contribute his Daswandh (tide). It is obligatory for a Sikh to contribute a part (usually one-tenth) of his income and wealth for the welfare of the Sikh nation in particular and humanity in general. If a Sikh does not contribute his Daswandh, he is a debtor. A Sikh must repay his debt as soon as possible. Daswandh, for a Sikh, is not only monetary contribution. An unemployed person or a poor man, too, can contribute the Daswandh of his time, energy, skill and knowledge for some national cause. This too is as good as monetary contribution. Paying Daswandh is "understanding one's responsibility for the nation." It is a feeling of considering oneself as an important and useful member of society.

17. Sewa (selfless, voluntary service), too, is an important aspect of the personality of a Sikh. Doing Sewa pleases a Sikh a lot. Having got a chance to do Sewa is a matter of honour for a Sikh. If a Sikh can not perform any type of Sewa for a long period, he feels something missing from his' self. While doing Sewa, a Sikh feels himself in spiritual heights. A Sikh is always in a wait for getting an opportunity to do some Sewa-He waits for Sewa as if some treasure is likely to be found by him.

18. For a Sikh, temporal (Miri) and transcendental (Piri) are one unit. A spiritual leader cannot ignore political and social role and a man with
political power must act like a spiritual person. A saint and soldiers are one unit in a Sikh. A king must be a saint in his heart. For a Sikh, politics must be practised in accordance with spiritual ethics. For a Sikh Miri (temporal) and Piri (transcendental) are one and this concept is not "unity" of both but it is "oneness". It is "Miri-Piri" and not "Mm and Pin".

19. A Sikh always makes prayers for the welfare of the whole of the humanity. A Sikh must not make prayers for himself or for his family. A Sikh's prayer is always national and rather universal and not personal or individual. If a Sikh makes a prayer for his own health, economic prosperity, personal peace of mind, progress of self or family, he is performing an act against Sikh fundamentals. A Sikh does not pray even for his own people. It must always for the whole of humanity.

20. A Sikh is essentially a "saint". The word "saint" (Sant), as it is being used for cult leaders or so-called missionaries, is a misnomer. They are using it to fool the Sikhs in particular and common people in general. In Sikhism, a saint is the one who meditates in the Name of the Almighty daily before beginning one's job/routine. One who does not meditate is better a dead person. Remembering the Almighty is not the mere recitation of hymns. To recite, to understand and try to live one's life according to hymns is real meditation. To live a Truthful Life, in accordance with spiritual ethics, is also meditation. A Sikh must always remember God in his heart of hearts twenty-four hours a day.

A Sikh's life, the Sikh ethics, the Sikh culture, the Sikh way of life is based oh these points. A Sikh need not renounce this world to achieve liberation (self-realisation). A Sikh can achieve liberation in this life while performing his regular routine. Sikhism is a religion of practical Me (pragmatism). Sikhism is not a theoretical concept, which can not be put into practice. Sikhism is no ritual-ism. It has, in its embrace, the welfare of the brotherhood, community, nation and whole of the world. Superman may be a fictitious character but if it is possible to have an superman on this earth, a Sikh can surely be called such a superman.

25
Dastaar (The Sikh Turban)

Today, the very existence of turban reminds one of the Sikh nation. Turban is an essential part of a Sikh's dress. It is obligatory for a Sikh. Although initiation of the Khalsa dates back to the last days of the seventeenth century, the turban for a Sikhs is as old as the religion itself. Right from Guru Nanak Sahib (1469-1539), the founder of the Sikh religion, the turban has been an inseparable part of the being of a Sikh.

Though turban is a religious obligation for the Sikhs, it is an old costume of the people of Asia. It has been a part of the attire of the saints and sages in the Sikh Homeland. According to some sources, even Hazrat Mohammed Sahib, the founder of Islam, used to wear a similar headgear.

It has not yet been established whether the Dastaar (turban) of a Sikh and turban of the Middle east (Dulband), have a common origin. In Persian turban is "Dulband" and in Turkish it is "Tulband". Turkish "Tulband" became "Turbante" in Italian, "Turbant" in French and "Turban" in English. The Sikhs appreciate the use of the term Dastaar, instead of "Turban."

Europe Knew Turban even prior to the fifteenth century. An oil painting by jan Van Eyck with a caption "a man in a turban" dates back to c.1433, (This painting has been preserved in the National Gallery at London). For a Sikh, "Dastaar" (turban) is not a headgear but it is a part and parcel of his religion. It is representative of the religious identify and national cohesion for die Sikh Nation. A Sikh with a "Dastaar" is conspicuous among the crowds of thousands. About four and a half meters (5 yards) of lightly starched fine cotton mulin cloth is usually used for a Sikh's "Dastaar." The width of this cloth is about one and a quarter meter. Some variations do exist and some people use 7 meter of slightly dense cotton clothe (voile), instead of finer material with starch. A smaller Dastaar, about one and a half to two meters in length and smaller width, is also worn under the "Dastaar." This is known as Keski. Keski became a obligatory part of the Sikh nation dress at the time of Guru Gobind Singh Sahib.

Turban has significance not only in the Sikh religion, but also in the Sikh way of life. After the death of the head of a family, the eldest son is presented a turban, symbolising grant of the honour and dignity of the family, as well as the responsibilities of the family. On the occasion of marriage, the fathers or close relatives of the bride •and the groom, present turbans to each
other as symbolic of shared social esteem and dignity. In the Sikh homeland, good friends of long standing, present turbans to each other implying the message that they will be brothers-in-religion, henceforth. Among some Sikh families, "Dastaar-band? (tying of a turban) of the children is observed as a special ceremony.

Dastaar is a part and parcel of Sikhism and several idioms have become associated with this. Most of these denote great humiliation or disrespect, when a turban is disturbed or knocked-off. Removing a Sikh's turban constitutes a grave offence. A Sikh, guilty of disrespect towards another Sikh's turban, is not allowed to join the Sikh ceremonies, unless he has expressly apologised and has carried out die punishment prescribed for the offence. (Rahitnama: Kesar Singh Chhibber).

In several countries, the Sikhs had to fight several times to retain their right to wear turbans. The first such battle was in England, the famous "Mandla case". In Norway, the Sikhs had to fight for their right to get a passport with a photograph in a turban. Later, in Norway again, the Sikhs had to struggle to be allowed to drive taxicabs while wearing a turban. In Sweden, the Sikhs had to fight hard for their right to wear a turban while serving in local railways. In Canada, the Sikhs had to launch an agitation to get permission to wear turban in police forces and armed forces. India has never helped the Sikhs in their adoptive lands, at any time, for preservation of any religious right of the Sikhs. On the contrary, examples abound where the Hindus have actively lobbied against the Sikhs' religious rights, particularly in Canada, the USA and the United Kingdom. The latest being France, where the Sikhs are still struggling for freedom of religion and for their existence.

Turban, for a Sikh, is not an optional piece of clothing but it is an essential and integral part of the Sikhs' religious belief and their way of life. Turban is an article of faith,

Turban is also a dress of royalty, A person wearing a turban looks like a king, a prince. Guru Sahib granted sovereignty to each and every Sikh and turban is a crown of a sovereign. A king, a Sirdar, a leader must always wear a crown. Slaves don't have a right to turban. Giving up turban is surrendering one's sovereignty and accepting slavery. Besides, a Sikh can not wear a cap or a helmet Wearing a cap or helmet in any form is strictly forbidden in Sikhism. A Sikh, if he places a cap or helmet of any type on his head (even over or under a turban), is condemned to hell. (Hell, here, means excommunication from me Sikh faith).
Kirpaan (The Sikh Sword)

The word has a special place in the history of various religions, cultures and nations. For a Sikh, “Kirpaan” is an article of faith. For an initiated Sikh, wearing of a Kirpaan is obligatory. An initiated Sikh, not wearing a Kirpaan, would be in breach of his faith.

Although its form has undergone several changes, sword has been a part of the history of the world since prehistoric periods. References pertaining to sword can be found in the history of the Jews, the Christians, the Muslims, the Sikhs, the Japanese, and other national and religious groups.

Matthew has quoted Jesus Christ as saying, "I have come not to bring peace but sword." Mohammed considered the sword to be sacred to Islam. The Hindu goddess Durga is shown carrying several weapons but a raised sword in her right hand is the most striking feature of her pictures.

The Sikh Kirpaan, however, is different from the sword of Christianity, Islam or Hinduism. Christ's sword is an alternative for peace; Prophet Mohammed advocated the use of sword for achieving political and religious objectives and Durga's sword is a weapon to kill the enemy. In all these cases, the sword is used as a weapon, for offensive action. On the other hand, the Sikh Kirpaan is essentially "defensive." The Sikh Kirpaan is not to be carried raised in hand. It is required to be worn in a Gaatra {a sword belt) on the left side of the body, with the humility of a saint.

Kirpaan was granted the status of "article of faith" by Guru Gobind Singh Sahib at Anandpur Sahib when he revealed Khalsa. However, it does not mean that Kirpaan was not sacred to the Sikhs before this date. Right from Guru Nanak Sahib, Kirpaan was a part and parcel of a Sikh's being. Commenting on Moghul invasion on the Sikh Homeland, Guru Nanak Sahib had given the message to the Sikhs to be prepared with a defending Kirpaan.

The Sixth Nanak, Guru Hargobind Sahib, wore two Kirpaans, one representing the temporal and the other transcendental domain of the Sikh cosmos. While he asked his followers to wear defending Kirpaans, he issued strict directions forbidding the use of Kirpaan for an offensive purpose.

Maubad Zulafqar Ardastani {formerly believed as Muhsan Fani), in the seventeenth century acknowledged the-Sikh position with regard to Kirpaan and confirmed in his book Dabistan-e-Mazahib that the Sikh Gurus never used his Kirpaan in langer.
A Hindu teacher, Samrath Ram Das (guide of the Maratha ruler Shivaji) once met Guru Hargobind Sahib and wanted to know the reason why Guru Sahib had chosen to wear Kirpaan. Guru Sahib told him that the Sikh Kirpaan was required for the protection of the weak, the poor, the downtrodden and the oppressed from the tyrant and annihilation of the cruel aggressors.

Guru Gobind Singh Sahib revealed Khalsa, the sovereign people. Khalsa, being the direct subject of the Almighty, owes its spiritual and temporal sovereignty to Waheguru (the Almighty). The Khalsa (of the Almighty) was granted five "articles of faith": Kes (unshorn hair), Kangha (the Sikh comb), Kara (the Sikh bracelet), Kachhehra (the Sikh shorts) and Kirpaan (the Sikh sword). Although these five articles were already a part and parcel of a Sikh's life, but since the revelation of Khalsa, these five became an integral and inseparable part of an initiated Sikh's being. From the moment of initiation until death, Khalsa has an obligation not to part with any one of these five articles of faith, at any time.

It is remarkable to note that Guru Gobind Singh Sahib declared a Kirpaan and not dagger, sabre, rapier, scimitar, gun or pistol as an article of faith. Kirpaan is a combination of two words: Kirpa (mercy) and "Aan" (honour). Thus the term Kirpaan means "an article to be used with mercy, for protection of honour/life." The other meaning which one can derive is: "an article which blesses honour." In both cases, the motif is that the Sikh Kirpaan can be used only for defence and not for offence. It can not be used in the cases of ordinary fighting for non-sacred purposes. Guru Gobind Singh Sahib did not grant status of "article of faith" to gun. (The Guru, however, did not prohibit the use of these weapons in case of necessity).

In the Sikh religion Khanda (double-edged sword) enjoys a great significance. It is used for preparation of Amrit (nectar for the Sikh initiation). Although Khanda is sacred in Sikhism, it is not an article of faith to be carried always on person.

Sword has also been a part of social and cultural traditions of many different communities. The practice of giving a sword as a mark of respect or in recognition of one's exceptional contribution towards the society is as old as the sword itself. People living in the United States, England, and the Sikh Homeland among others share this practice. In the United States, the custom of presentation of sword was very popular until the later part of the nineteenth century. Interestingly, some swords were awarded "by vote" in lotteries during the US Civil war. These presentation swords are usually richly crafted and vary in sizes.

In the Sikh history and traditions, Kirpaan has enjoyed a very special
place. Anyone making contribution towards the betterment of humanity or a special contribution for the Sikh nation, is honoured with the award of a Kirpaan. Unfortunately, few opportunist politicians, who, for the sake of political expediency, arranged with their sycophant followers, to be the recipients of such undeserved honours, have corrupted this noble tradition. They might succeed in their nefarious designs to confuse the unknown people in the western countries but the Sikh community is too well aware of their manipulations to be taken in.

Attacks on the Sikh ideology, their cherished traditions, and even the articles of their faith, have often required them to fight protracted battles to enjoy the basic rights, taken for granted by most other people. Sikh Kirpaan is one such item. At one time, the ruling British Government in India was called upon to establish the legal status of the Sikh Kirpaan. The British Governor General of India issued a notification (no. 393-821 VI of June 5, 1928), making a clear ruling on the issue. It said: "No restriction of shape, length and size of a Kirpaan is prescribed for the Sikhs."

An order of F.C. Taylor, Deputy Inspector General of Police (Letter no. 3879 dated November 1, 1936), finally resolved the question of Kirpaan. It said: "Government has recently issued orders that prohibition and directions of section 13 of the Indian Arms Act, shall not operate in the case of the Sikhs carrying Kirpaan; from this it follows that Kirpaans are not arms within the meaning of that section. Sikhs can, therefore, carry any number of any size of Kirpaans."

For a Sikh, Kirpaan, is an essential article of faith. It is not a symbol. It is strictly obligatory and not optional. A replica of Kirpaan cannot be used. Kirpaan reminds a Sikh of one's duty to do the right action; to defend the poor, the weak, the oppressed and the persecuted; to always remain prepared to the call of the nation, the society and the humanity. The Sikh Kirpaan stands for self-esteem; justice, honour, righteousness and readiness for duty and sacrifice.
Hair, Beard and Moustache

A Sikh must not cut hair from any part of his body in any situation. There is no concession or exemption on this issue. It is final and obligatory. Cutting of hair excommunicates a Sikh. Before one wishes to rejoin Sikh faith, one has to keep unshorn hair and get initiation. An initiated Sikh, at the time of initiation, is given command not to have any social relations with those who cut their hair (Sirgumm).

Hair have significant place in other religions too. The founders of Judaism, Christianity, Islam etc. kept unshorn hair. Most of the great philosophers, scientists and writers keep unshorn hair. Hair is considered to be a source of great spiritual, mental and physical energy.

Normally, a human being has 25 thousand to 125 thousand hair on his head (beard and moustache are extra). Hair begin growing soon after one's birth (some children have small hair even at the time of their birth). The growth of hair stops after some stage. Hair growth needs a lot of proteins. When cut, hair grow very soon. New hair too need protein. So cutting of hair leads to loss of protein in the body. On the other hand hair length and growth stops at a particular stage. From this stage hair don't need protein. So not-cutting of hair saves protein, hence energy of body.

Hair is essential for proper functioning of bones, teeth and nervous system. Longer the hair, higher the production of vitamin D in the body. By cutting hair we loose vitamin D also. Some of us have to resort to vitamin D tablets and other medicines or special food simply because of our folly of cutting or trimming our hair.

Hair protect us from extreme heat as well as extreme cold. Hair is also very helpful in conducting in our body warmth in winter and coolness in summer. On the other hand those who cut their hair have to cover their heads with some headgear to save their heads from the effects of weather and climate. some headgears don't give proper protection to the head. It is only unshorn hair which are the best possible safety for head from the adverse effect of weather.

By cutting hair, one looses a lot of zinc, chromium, lead and selenium also. One needs these metallic elements to keep one's body fit. Women need these metallic elements during the period of menstruation and pregnancy.
more than men. Cutting of hair has an adverse effect on eyesight too. Regular combing of hair increases eyesight. Cutting hair leads to early loss of teeth. Cutting moustache leads to diseases of breath. One who cuts his/her hair is more prone to insanity and psychological disorders.

Similarly, beards and moustaches have a special role in a man's personality. It is beard and moustache that make a man look 'manly'. One looks feminine by shaving his beard and moustache. Nature has given hair to man due to its necessity for his body. Otherwise, like a female, man would also have been deprived of this gift by nature. Hence, scientifically speaking, it is necessary for human beings to keep unshorn hair.

As far as Sikh religion is concerned hair, beard, moustache are obligatory for a Sikh. Guru Sahib have clearly said that if a Sikh cuts his/her hair, he/she does not remain a Sikh. There is no concept of a "modern Sikh" or a "clean shaven" Sikh. A clean-shaven Punjabi is either a Hindu Punjabi or die one who has renounced Sikhism. One cannot cut hair and still call himself/herself a Sikh. A Sikh is a Sikh and without hair he/she ceases to be so.

There are several references to hair in Gurbani (Sikh hymns). See pp 199, 387, 471, 500, 745, 749, 750, 810, 1084, 1339, 1419 etc. of Guru Granth Sahib). Hukamnamas issued by Guru Gobind Singh Sahib, prohibit cutting of hair as hair is 'seal of Guru' and by losing one's "seal" one becomes false, base, spurious, bogus, phoney.

A Sikh, in his daily prayer, at least twice a day, seeks from the Almighty, die gift of power to live throughout his life with unshorn hair. Though, these days, a very large number of persons who were born as Sikhs have cut their hair and it is a shame that they still they express their claim to Sikhism. They are hypocrite liars as they have no right to do so. When a Sikh gets initiation, the Punj Piaray (who perform the ceremony of initiation) command in unequivocal words the four prohibitions to be strictly followed and keeping unshorn hair is die first and foremost of these four. Disobeying this commandment makes a Sikh (in fact former Sikh) an apostate and he/she has to get re-initiation before calling himself/herself a Sikh.

Hair, for a Sikh, is not only hair on head. It includes beard and moustache too. A fine-looking Sikh is one who keeps untied (flowing) beard-Such a figure is known as Darshani Darha (respectable beard). There are some references to beard and moustache in Gurbani. But, in these references, the Sikhs have been told, besides having Darshani Darha, Truthful Living and love for the Guru and the Almighty:

True are the beards which touch Guru's feet (p. 1419)
Only those faces and beards are true
which speak Truth and practise Truth (p. 1419)

Guru Arjan Sahib told in clear words that if one has a fine beard but troubles the poor people and does not live a Truthful life, will be punished by God:

One who haughtily strokes his beard on poor people
Will be burnt in the fear of hell (p. 199)

The first reference to a beard, in Guru Granth Sahib, however, has been made in a hymn by Sheikh Farid:

See, O Farid! what has happened to you beard, it has grown grey, yours days in this world are numbered
now your death is approaching (but you are still living ungodly life)

According to a historical source, Guru Ram Das Sahib had a long beard. Once, Sri Chand, elder son of Guru Nanak Sahib, met the Fourth Nanak. On seeing Guru Sahib's long beard, Sri Chand asked him "How do you have such a long beard?" At this Guru Ram Das Sahib told him, "it is for cleaning the feet of senior people (like you)."

This story might not be exactly true but it speaks of Guru Ram Das Sahib's humbleness, generosity, saintliness and intelligence.

Beard, otherwise, is considered as a sign of wisdom, seniority, and grandeur. Famous Punjabi poet Shah Mohammed, too, has referred to turban and beard as symbolic of a man's honour. While addressing the Sikh soldiers going to battlefield, he says:

0 friends! preserve the honour of turbans and beards"

Beard is such a sign of seniority, intelligence and wisdom that if someone, having nice beard, makes some (major) mistake or shows some ethical lapse, he is immediately warned:

He has a lovely beard
But is a 'black crow* at heart

When a white-bearded person makes a mistake, he is told to take care of his white fine-looking beard. One, who gets a bad name for his misdoing *s chided with the words "you have insulted your beard" or " you did not preserve the honour of your beard."

As beard symbolises seniority and generosity, moustache symbolises masculinity and prowess. Among Hindus the highest punishment for a man is shaving off his moustache'. Nowadays, however, Hindus shave off their head, and moustache themselves without knowing what they are doing to themselves

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On the other hand, show of moustache, in an improper manner, is a negative activity too. Those who fix their moustache upward and also make unethical signs, are known as Badmash (wicked and flirts). This exhibition is disliked by society.

Moustache, too, is a symbol of honour in Punjabi society. Touching the moustache of a tiger is almost an impossible act. Insulting a Sikh is like touching the moustache of a tiger. If somebody gets insulted due to some reason, he is chided as "having got his moustache lowered or trimmed." Such idioms are associated with beard too. Some one showing ungrateful attitude is said to be "plucking beard while sitting in the lap of a nice person."

Beard and moustache are a part and parcel of Sikh-life since Guru Nanak Sahib. In 1695 (a couple of years before revelation of Khalsa), Guru Gobind Singh Sahib made it obligatory for a Sikhs. It is an inseparable part of a Sikh's being. A Sikh is identified specially because of his beard and turban.

Among the Sikhs, the most respectable and representative beard is an untied, flowing beard. By the first half of the nineteenth century, there was no concept of tying the beard. Sher Singh (son of Maharaja Ranjit Singh) was, perhaps, the first Sikh who tied his beard. He separated beards from his chin and tied it upward over his cheeks. In spite of a prince's action, no Sikh tried to practice it. However, in the beginning of the twentieth century several Sikhs began tying beard with a net or fixer or gel or in some other manners.

After 1947, some Sikhs began trimming their beards and moustaches. Up to 1960s, there was a very small percentage of such persons who shaved off their heads, beards or moustaches. By 1978, the number of such persons rose very high. The Indian government, as it is headed by the Hindus, began encouraging, promoting, helping and patronising those who renounced their hair, beards and moustaches. Majority of the Hindu officers gave jobs and promotions to those who had insulted their hair. It resulted into disappearing of beards, moustaches and hair.

In foreign countries several Sikhs, partly due to racial insults and partly due to fashion, renounced hair and beards. In fact, it was their weakness as well as their non-commitance to Sikh faith, which made them cut their hair. By 1978, it was so startling a situation that on some occasions it was almost impossible to find even five Sikhs with hair and beards. However, the killings of 13 Sikhs, at Amritsar, on April 13, 1978 and particularly the attack by the Indian army on Darbar Sahib (4.6.1984) that brought a major change in the Sikh attitude and thousands of Sikhs in foreign countries and hundreds of thousands of Sikhs in the Sikh homeland, not only stopped cutting their hair but also got initiation. But, during 1992-1995, the mass killings of the Sikh youths
by Beant Singh and K.P. Gill in the Sikh homeland stopped initiation movement in the Punjab.

A Sikh must not dye his/her hair, beard or moustache. This act is liable to religious punishment. Similarly, a Sikh must not pluck white/grey hair from any part of his body. It is a misconceived notion that dying hair can conceal one's age. Nor it is true that a black-haired or dark-brown haired person is [or looks) stronger or younger. Those who dye their white hair are, in fact, mentally weak persons who don't want to accept their seniority. Strictly speaking, one who dyes one's hair to conceal age is not worth credibility as he can try to deceive others in any other situation, under any other garb, in any other manner, with another excuse. Concealing, deceiving, cheating are a general way of behaviour.

A European writer, while commenting upon the Sikhs' hair and beards, once said "the best appearance of a nice man on this earth is a Sikh with untrimmed beard." He further said, "the worst appearance of a person is a Sikh who has insulted his beard."

A look at the histories of different religions shows a remarkable factor common to all the religions. The founders of all the religions of the world kept unshorn hair. Moses, Christ, Mohammed, Buddha, all kept unshorn hair. All the great philosophers, scientists and intellectuals keep (even now) unshorn hair. Socrates, Plato, Aristotle, Newton, Shakespeare, Milton, Wordsworth, Walt Whitman, Kali Das, Tagore, Acharya Rajneesh, all kept unshorn hair.

According to Christianity and Islam, Adam (according to them the first man on this earth) was the one with unshorn hair. In Islamic and European world no one had ever trimmed one's hair till the beginning of the twentieth century. In Egypt, Turkey, Persia, Greece, Iraq (then Mesopotamia) no body ever trimmed hair. In Turkey, only the slaves were not allowed to keep unshorn hair. Shaving hair meant slavery. The same was die rule in the Hindu world. A sinner or a criminal was condemned to shaving his beard and cutting his hair. In Britain, Henry I (1154-89) was the first clean-shaven king. But Henry III (1216-1272) started keeping hair again. After the death of Edward III (1377), the British rulers stopped keeping unshorn hair. By seventh century, all the Anglo-Saxons used to keep unshorn hair. William I had issued orders that the ordinary people won't be allowed to keep unshorn hair as only rulers had a right to keep unshorn hair, as it was a God-given privilege of the royal family only.

Russia, too, has interesting history about hair. Peter, the Russian king, in 1705, levied a tax on those who wanted to keep unshorn beard. Queen Catherine finally withdrew this tax.
Beard is a symbol of piety not only in the east but also in the west. If someone wishes to ensure one's sincerity of promise, he says "I swear by my chin". Here chin means beard. It has been a belief in the west that a man without beard is not a trustworthy person. Similarly, a woman with a beard was condemned as a witch. Now, this belief does not exist anymore. Sikhism does not believe in the taboo that a man without natural beard or a woman with beard are evil beings. According to Sikhism it is due to hormones only.

In Sikhism, hair, beard, moustache are an obligation. There can not be any exception. A man is a Sikh only if he has unshorn hair on each and every part of his body. (But, only unshorn hair do not make a Sikh. One must get initiation and live one's Me according to fundamental principles of Sikhism).

A Sikh should not tie his beard as only flowing natural (flowing) beards is the genuine representative of Sikh faith. There have been attempts to ban natural flowing beard in India too. Once the British government in India banned flowing beard in the army. It was strongly reacted to by the whole of the Sikh-world. The Indian government, too, repeated the same after 1947. Even today, undeclared rules have been promulgated and a Sikh soldier is not allowed to keep flowing beard.

Hair, beard and moustache are sacred and respectable and symbol of seniority and they shall ever remain so. A natural man is one who has unshorn hair. Nature has provided this masculine gift to men with some purpose. Hence, cutting or trimming hair is unnatural. Hair, moustache, beard are a sign of seniority, wisdom, honour, credibility and beauty. Their absence points to incredibility, cheating, hypocrisy, weakness, deficiency and unnatural activity. Moreover, it is like disobeying nature.

[For further details read the author's books : (a) The Sikh Culture (b) Dictionary of Sikh Philosophy]
THE

WESTERN FRONT
The Sikh’s Sacrifices for Belgium
Battles of Ieper, Belgium (1914-1915)

As soon as the war broke out in early August 1914, both British and the French were mobilizing their respective empires. Soldiers and labourers from all over the world were brought to the Western Front. More than 30 different nationalities were engaged in the Ypres Salient.

We must not forget that it is very difficult to define a nationality. For instance, Belgian includes Walloons and Flemings, French includes Bretons, Occitans and Flemings, who were often unable to speak or understand French. The British includes of course, English, Scots, Welsh, Irish, Channel Islanders, and I might have even forgotten some.

I’ll just mention some nationalities apart from the main warring nation such as the British, German, French and Belgians. At a later stage in the war there were Americans and Portuguese troops. Further on there were Danes and Poles in the German army, as well as Russian and Italian P.O.Ws who were forced to work on the roads for the Germans. In the French Army, one would find Moroccan, Algerian, Tunisian, Senegalese, other West Africans, and troops from French Guyana as well as labourers from Indochina - the Ammanites.

The British, however, undoubtedly disposed of the world’s greatest empire in 1914. Firstly, there were the Dominions; Canada, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa in addition to the crown colonies of Newfoundland and, of course, our main subject today - Sikhs from British India. It is quite obvious that even here a uniform sense of nation remained blatantly absent.

The New Zealand contingent counted a Maori pioneer battalion amongst their ranks. The CEF boasted both French-speaking Canadians as well as native Americans, often deployed as scouts. Some units were comprised exclusively of Japanese troops. The South African Expeditionary Force consisted of white soldiers (in the brigade) and separate black labour units such as the Cape Coloured Labour Battalion, and the South African Native Labour Corps.

The then troops of the British Indian army or British Indian Labour Corps would, in our present day and age, be hailing from India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Burma or Nepal. Even some smaller constituent parts of the British Empire sent their sons to Flanders’ fields, Egypt (Egyptian Labour Corps), BWI (the Caribbean and mainly Jamaica, Trinidad & Tobago and Barbados) and Bermuda, the Fiji Islands (Fijian Labour Corps). Then again, the British army itself counted amongst their ranks white Rhodesians.
The universally renowned coolies - the locals called them chinks - were, in fact, hired Chinese labourers who served in three armies - the British, the French and the American. There was even a Russian labour corps present in the British army. This enumeration is, without any doubt, incomplete. I have restricted the list to those nationalities whose presence in Flanders during the Great War is undeniably proven by evidence of written documents, testimonials or material and facts.

But let’s get back to our main subject of this talk, the Sikhs in the British Indian army and its presence in the Ypres Salient. This means that I will hardly mention Neuve-Chapelle, the main British Indian sector on the Western Front. Though only 25 miles south of Ypres, Neuve-Chapelle is not part of the Ypres Salient. In fact, the British Indian Army Corps was only deployed twice in the Salient, but each time at very crucial moments, at the end of October 1914 during the 1st Battle of Ypres, and at the end of April 1915, during the 2nd Battle.

But first of all I need to give a short introduction on the British Indian army. The Indian army was organised in a similar way as the British army but there were some significant differences. First of all, it had it’s own military law. Secondly, in the British Indian Army a regiment equals a battalion, although there are some exceptions to this rule. This means, for instance, that the 15th Sikhs does not mean the 15th battalion of the Sikhs regiment, but the 15th regiment!

A British Indian infantry division was composed of three brigades with four battalions (after the battle of Neuve-Chapelle in April 1915, five battalions). One of these four battalions was British, among other reasons as an element of controlling the Indian troops. An British Indian battalion consisted in theory of 13 officers and 750 rank and file - less than its British counterpart.

In my story, only one division is involved - the Lahore Division - the other division of the Indian Army Corps was the Meerut Division. I give you the composition of the Lahore Division in October 1914:

**Infantry**

**Ferozepore Brigade: 1st Connaught Rangers**
57th Wilde’s Rifles
9th Bhopal Infantry
129th Duke of Connaught’s Own Baluchis
(April 1915: + 4th London)

**Jullundur Brigade: 1st Manchesters**
15th Ludhiana Sikhs
47th Sikhs
59th Scinde Rifles (Frontier Force)
(April 1915: - 15th Ludhiana Sikhs, + 4th Suffolks, + 40th Pathans)
Sirhind Brigade 1/ Highland Light Infantry
1/1st Gurkhas
1/4th Gurkhas
125th Napiers Rifles
(April 1915: + 4/(King’s) Liverpool Regt, + 15th Ludhiana Sikhs)

Divisional Troops  Artillery
15th Lancers (Cureton’s Multanis)
34th Sikh Pioneers
20th and 21st Companies Bombay Sappers and Miners
5th, 11th, 18th Brigades, RFA
109th Heavy Battery

Field Ambulances
7th & 8th Field Ambulance (British)
111th, 112th & 113th Field Ambulance (Indian)

There were ethnic mixed battalions, such as the 57th Wilde’s Rifles (8 companies, of which 2 Sikhs, 2 Dogras, 2 Pathans, 2 Punjabi Muslims) and ethnic homogeneous battalions, such as the 47th Sikhs (only Sikhs). It was a clear policy of the British to ensure a spirit of competition between the different peoples. It is common knowledge that Sikhs and Gurkhas were considered to be martial races.

There were two types of officers, British and Indian with the British always commanding the Indian. The higher ranks had the same names as in the British army, but there were some specific ranks such as subadar major (cf major), subadar (cf captain) & jemadar (cf lieutenant - commanding a platoon).

At the level of the NCOs, Indian terms were used: havildar major (sergeant-major), havildar naik (corporal) and lance naik. A private was a sepoy. The cavalry had its own ranks such as risaldar (captain), woordie-major (Indian adjutant), kot daffadar (sergeant major) etc. A trooper was a sowar. It is also important to emphasise the very particular relationship that existed between the British officers, their Indian NCOs and the rank and file. The British officers did speak the local languages and the relationship towards the Indian troops they were commanding is best described as paternalistic. There are numerous accounts of mutual respect from the officers towards the Indians and vice versa.

The story of the British Indian army on the Western Front starts on 6th August 1914. On that day, the War Council asks the Indian government to send two infantry divisions and a cavalry brigade to Egypt. The divisions chosen were the Lahore and the Meerut Divisions, later followed by the Secunderabad Cavalry Brigade which together formed the Indian Army Corps.

On 27th August the British Government decides to send the Indian divisions to France in order to reinforce the B.E.F. that had recently been forced to withdraw after Mons. Meanwhile, the Lahore
Division was already on its way to the front. Its new destination was Marseilles, where it arrived by the end of September.

On its way to France, the Lahore Division left one of its brigades near the Suez Canal, and, as some units of the Jullundur Brigade only left India by the end of September, it was only the Ferozepore Brigade that was at its full strength.

Marseilles must have been a colourful sight in those days as it was also the port where most of the French colonial troops arrived. The British officers compared the behaviour of their troops with those of the Algerians, Moroccans, Tunisians and Senegalese. During the 14 months that the British Indian Corps stayed in Europe, Marseilles was the Indian base port. The Indian troops were enthusiastically received by the French population.

For the British Indian troops, Europe was a totally new and a strange experience. They did not understand the language and were not understood and their culture was completely different. The Indians and the French or the Belgians looked upon one another with strange eyes. Nevertheless, the Indians were well received by the French population.

From Marseilles the Indian troops went north, over Orleans. When the 47th Sikhs were moving up to the front, they were billeted in a large monastery near Saint-Omer on 20th October 1914 and were well received by the monks. However, the curious troops continually scrutinised the statues of the twelve apostles in the main corridor of the abbey. Finally, they accepted their British officers’ explanation that these were images of Christian gurus!

On 22nd October 1914, the Ferozepore Brigade arrives in the “new-born” Ypres Salient. They are sent to the trenches between Hollebeke in the north and Messines in the south. The trenches were not an uninterrupted line then, but was more a series of loose trenches, without the complex system with saps, communication trenches etc. that we are to know later in the War.

The 1st Connaught Rangers - the British battalion that belonged to the Ferozepore Brigade - were the first to have their baptism of fire. The first Indian battalion that had to go into the firing line was the 57th Wilde’s Rifles in the vicinity of Wijtschate - Oosttaverne.

Sepoys from that unit are depicted on a famous picture taken in front of Café ‘t Nieuw Staenijzer in Wijtschate around that date. The photographs are from the IWM. However, the caption in the IWM is wrong. It says that these are soldiers from the 129th Baluchis. The mistake is made again and again. Strangely enough, (as it is clearly readable) the shoulder badge of the sepoy in the front is “57” and not “129”. No doubt the mistake was made because Khudadad Khan VC, belonged to the 129th Baluchis.
On that day, 22nd October 1914, we also see the first Indian war casualty of the Western Front; Naik Laturia of the 57th Wilde’s Rifles, commemorated on the Menin Gate. The arrival of the Indian troops went on and on. Father Achiel Van Wallegem, priest of Dikkebus, writes in his war diary that, during the whole night of 22nd-23rd October, the Indian troops are brought in by London double decker buses.

According to Van Wallegem, it was also the first day that the War could be clearly heard in his village. The next day, on 23rd October, the 129th Baluchis entered the trenches at Hollebeke while the last battalion of the Ferozepore Brigade, the 9th Bhopal Infantry, was arriving. The Connaughts and the Wilde’s Rifles were placed under command of the 1st British Cavalry Division, the Baluchis under command of the 2nd cavalry division. The rest of the Lahore Division, now without two of its three brigades, was deployed on the other side of the French border.

On 26th October, a grey and misty day, the troops of the British Indian army attacked the German trenches near Gapaard, a hamlet of Messines. It had rained the whole night and the trenches were full with mud and water. Remark: trenches were considered as being very temporary and thus they were no more than shallow ditches. As mentioned, there was not yet a continuous line of defence. Here and there were “big gaps” between the different positions through which it was easy for the enemy to infiltrate in the lines.

Above all, it was more difficult to distinguish an enemy trench from an old trench abandoned by their own troops. The result of the attack on 26th October 1914 was several hundred yards but as the initial position was by all means more favourable than the new line, the troops were withdrawn again to their first positions. This caused much incomprehension and even disenchantment among the Indian rank and file.

On 30th October, after a heavy initial bombardment, the Germans attacked the Indian troops from the ridge of the Zandvoorde. The Indian and British troops were by far in the minority, had little ammunition and sparse artillery support, so it was obvious that it would be very hard to stand to. Two companies of the 57th Wilde’s Rifles withdrew to Messines, where they were dispersed in the streets of the town. There was one officer there to point out the direction of HQ in Wijtschate, but some got lost and arrived in Kemmel, some 2.5 miles wrong! Other units of the 57th Wilde’s Rifles were also forced to withdraw. Thus, a Sikh company had to take a new position in the neighbourhood of a battery near the mill east of the Wijtschate-Messines Road. Another company did not get the order to withdraw as all means of communication were cut or lost. When the message finally came through, it was too late as they were completely surrounded by
German troops. The Baluchis too, in the neighbourhood of the chateau on the other side of the canal and the railway, had very difficult times when standing.

The battle raged on until the next day. After a bombardment that lasted the whole night, Messines was stormed by nine German battalions. They overwhelmed the trenches of the 57th Wilde’s Rifles and many units of this battalion were literally annihilated. Jemadar Ram Singh was the only survivor of his platoon.

Another Sikh, jemadar Kapur Singh, kept on fighting until everyone else was out of action, except for one wounded sepoy. As he did not want to surrender, he committed suicide with his last bullet. All British officers of the 57th Wilde’s Rifles, present on this part of the front, were killed. On that same day 31st October 1914 in the vicinity of Hollebeke, the action took place for which, some months later, Khudadad Khan of the 129th Baluchis was going to be the first Indian to be awarded the Victoria Cross.

During the night of 30th-31st October, the Baluchis had lost a position near a farm because they were unable to discern German from French soldiers. So they saw too late that they were approached by Germans and not by the French, who were holding the line, to the left of them. Khudadad Khan belonged to the company operating one of the two machine guns of the battalion. He himself got heavily wounded during the fights later that day, but nevertheless kept on operating the only surviving machine gun. Just before, the other machine gun was lost through shrapnel fire, the British officer wounded and five men of the unit were killed. Finally, when the Germans were getting close, he destroyed his machine gun and pretended to be dead. During the following night, he crawled through the enemy lines and was able to rejoin his company.

The losses of the 57th Wilde’s Rifles and the 129th Baluchis were great during the last two days of October 1914. The Wilde’s Rifles lost 300 out of 750, the Baluchis had 240 men killed, wounded or taken as POWs.

During these events, the Jullundur Brigade was just on the other side of the border, in the vicinity of Neuve-Chapelle - soon to become the Indian sector. There too the British Indian troops were thrown into the firing line from upon arrival. From 29th October 1914, the complete Meerut Division did arrive there. But as I will limit my talk to the Ypres Salient, I will not focus on that.

Once again, I want to emphasise that the whole of the Lahore Division was not deployed during 1st Ypres. Battalions, half battalions and even companies, were separated and deployed separately in support of diverse British divisions. All this happened while the British Indian troops at least expected to stay together. On 29th October 1914, General Willemcocks wrote in his diary:
Where is my Lahore Division? Sirhind Brigade: left in Egypt, Ferozopore Brigade: somewhere in the north, divided in three or four pieces, Jullundur Brigade: the Manchesters in the south with the 5th division, the 47th Sikhs half with the one or the other British division, for the other half somewhere else. The 59th and 15th Sikhs: in the trenches...

It is clear that this was not really favourable for the morale of the Indian rank and file.

Thousands of miles away from home, in completely different surroundings, and inadequately adapted to the dreadful weather conditions, the Indian troops fought for a cause they hardly understood. I have already emphasised the particular relationship between the British officers and their Indian rank and file.

When a lot of these officers died in the first fights, many Indian soldiers felt dazed and left alone without those officers who understood them and knew their culture, their habits etc. Indian companies of which the commanding officer was lost, were brought under command of British units where no one understood them. Also, it was hard for the Indian troops to cope with some of the modern technologies. In the first weeks they fired at every airplane to be seen in the sky, no matter if it was friend or foe. They could not believe that such a flying monster could have anything but bad intentions. After a while an airplane was no longer a novelty and they hardly looked up when one was flying over.

In early November, the Ferozopore Brigade was moved to the Indian sector between Givenchy and Neuve-Chapelle. On 7th December 1914 the Sirhind Brigade arrived from Egypt, together with reinforcements from India. Mid-November saw the arrival of the 1st Indian cavalry division, one month later followed by the 2nd Indian Cavalry division. By the way, these two cavalry divisions would remain on the Western Front until the end of the War, while the rest of the Indian Army Corps was moved to Mesopotamia in late 1915.

In December 1914, there was heavy fighting in the Indian sector - a sector known for its bad trenches and, on 10th March, the Battle of Neuve Chapelle was fought, truly carnage for the British Indian troops. This explains why the beautiful Indian Memorial to the Missing is to be found in that small French village. The losses after the Battle of Neuve-Chapelle were so heavy that the Indian Corps had to be reorganised. From then on, every brigade consisted of two British and three Indian battalions.

On 22nd April 1915 at 5 p.m. the 2nd Battle of Ypres began with the first successful gas attack in history. Again the British Indian Corps - not yet recovered from the terrible Battle of Neuve-Chapelle - was called upon to fill a gap in the line. On 23rd April, the 1st Army, to which the Indian Corps belonged, received the order to prepare the
Lahore Division for a move at very short notice. The next day the division marched northwards.

In the evening, HQ was installed in Godewaersvelde, called Gertie-wears-velvet by the British Tommy. The main part of the division was in Boeschepe on the French-Belgian border. In the early morning of 25th April 1915, the column arrived in Oudерdom, a hamlet between Vlamertinge and Reninghelst. Father Van Wallegehен is even more precise:

The Indians are staying on the farms of Maerten, Lievens and Desmarets.

Upon arrival in Oudеrdom, the men were exhausted having marched for a fortnight over slippery cobblestones (because of the rain) through hilly countryside. Only in Boeschepe had they had a short rest. The Lahore Division was now under command of the British 2nd Army of Smith-Dorrien. Among the British Indian troops the warning was spread that, in case of the use of gas, a handkerchief (or the pagri-dastaar) was to be placed over the mouth. It was recommended to soak the handkerchief (or pagri) in urine.

After the gas attack, the Germans had gained a considerable portion of the northern part of the Ypres Salient. Now the British, together with the French troops, wanted to make a counter-attack in order to force the Germans to withdraw from this new position. On the morning of 26th April 1915, the Lahore Division assembled between the Ieper-Langemark road on the left and Wieltje on the right, some 600 yards north of la Brique. The Ferozepore Brigade moved to its position through Vlamertinge, but the Jullundur Brigade went to Wieltje by the road winding along the Ypres ramparts. There they were caught in a heavy bombardment.

Most of the shells dropped in the water of the moat or exploded against the heavy walls of the ramparts. Sometimes the men shouted when a shell fell into the water. Nevertheless, one heavy shell fell in the midst of a company of the 40th Pathans, resulting in 23 casualties. As soon as the division was deployed in the fields near Wieltje, they were shelled with tear gas. German airplanes were doing recce flights above the heads of the Indian troops while nothing was done against them. Not a single allied aircraft was to be seen. On the other side of the Ieper-Langemark road, French colonial troops were deployed, on the right side of the Lahore Division, the British Vth army Corps. The Ferozopore Brigade took a position to the left, the Jullundur Brigade to the right. The Sirhind Brigade was in reserve near Saint-Jean with the Divisional HQ in Potijze.

After a preceding bombardment of only 40 minutes, at a quarter past two in the afternoon on 26th April 1915, the order to attack was given. Two officers per unit had been sent forward for a reconnaissance of the ground. None of them had returned. There was no information at all on the exact position of the German trenches, nor
on at what distance they were (actually they were at a distance of 1500-2000 yards).

The rank and file of the Lahore Division were exhausted after a heavy march and their position was exactly localised by the enemy as the German planes had been able to scout without any obstacle. Moreover, the troops first had to cross open ground, varying from several hundred yards to almost a mile before reaching the first German line and thus the real line of attack. The relief was not favourable either, as the ground first rises slightly over a few hundred yards, then over another few hundred yards it declines slightly before rising again towards the German frontline.

The British and Indian artillery was ineffective as they did not know the precise location of the German lines either. Once out of the trenches, every sense of direction was gone and the various units in the attack were mixing up, French, Moroccans, British and Indians. After the first gentle slope, they arrived in an inferno of gunfire, machine gun fire and shells, among which also tear gas shells. The men fell by the dozen and very soon the attack was stopped. The reinforcements did not arrive.

It is obvious that the number of casualties was extremely elevated. The 47th Sikhs, which was in the first line of attack, lost 348 men from a total of 444, or 78 % of the battalion! It was almost annihilated. In total the attack resulted in almost 2000 casualties in the two brigades. During this attack, Corporal Issy Smith of the 1st Manchesters, which belonged to the Jullundur Brigade won a Victoria Cross. Amidst heavy shelling and continuous gunfire, he had ceaselessly evacuated the wounded.

Also Mula Singh and Rur Singh of the 47th Sikhs distinguished themselves by saving many lives. Bhan Singh, a Sikh of the 57th Wilde’s Rifles, was wounded in the face early during the attack. Nevertheless, he stayed near his officer, Captain Banks. When Banks fell, Bhan Singh thought just of one thing, bringing Banks back, dead or alive. Weakened as he was, he stumbled on with Banks’ body under heavy fire until he was completely exhausted. However, he did not return without first saving Banks’ personal belongings.

None of the attacking troops managed to reach the first enemy line. Moreover, every attempt to consolidate the positions reached, failed when the Germans reopened the gas bottles at 2.30 p.m. When the gas reached the Indian troops, an Indian havildar was heard shouting: “Khabardar, Jehannah pahunche”, which means “watch out, we have arrived in Hell”. In no time the ground was filled with men being tortured in a terrible way.

Although all the attacking troops were touched by the gas, it were mostly the Ferozepore Brigade and the Moroccans to the left of them who were touched. They withdrew in the biggest chaos, leaving the dead and the dying in no man’s land. Nevertheless, a small party,
led by Major Deacon, could resist a German counter attack and was able to stand in no man’s land. Jemadar Mir Dast of the 55th Coke’s Rifles, attached to the 57th Wilde’s Rifles stayed in no man’s land when all officers were dead or wounded. He assembled all the men he could find, among whom many who were slightly gassed, and kept them together till sunset. Only in the dark did he return, bringing a lot of wounded with him. He also helped by searching and bringing back many other wounded Indians and British although he was wounded himself. For this deed, he received the Victoria Cross.

The award of the VC to jemadar Mir Dast for his actions on the night of 26th - 27th April, was of more than usual significance. Mir Dast had a brother, jemadar Mir Mast. On the night of 2nd - 3rd March, Mir Mast was in command of a section of the firing line near Neuve Chapelle when he deserted to the Germans, taking with him two havildars, two naiks and two sepoys.

But let’s get back to the night of 26th -27th April 1915 when the chlorine gas was to be smelt the whole night. Only late that night could the remnants of Major Deacon’s party be relieved. The Ferozepore and Jullundur Brigades were withdrawn to the Briee while the Sirhind Brigade replaced them in the first line. Men of the 34th Sikh Pioneers did try to consolidate the difficult position when Major Deacon did manage to keep a stand.

Later, two men of that unit, sappers Jai Singh and Gujar Singh, were awarded the Indian Distinguished Service Medal because they had established communication lines under constant fire. On the three following days, the attack was repeated again and again, but never with any result for the North Africans, British and Indians. The Germans opened the gas cylinders time and again and, on 27th April, the first “gas masks” were issued. Shortly after 1 p.m. on 27th April, the Moroccans, the Sirhind and the Ferozepore Brigades went again in attack, now supported by the Canadian artillery.

The two Gurkha battalions, the 4th London and the 9th Bhopals led the attack and suffered the highest number of casualties. When it was discovered that the barbed wire in front of the German trenches was untouched, the action was called off.

During the night of 29th -30th April 1915, the Jullundur and Ferozepore Brigades were withdrawn to their billets in Ouderdom. Because they were also under frequent bombardments there, the men preferred to stay out instead of sleeping in their huts. A shelling in the early morning of 1st May made the beasts of burden of the 47th Sikhs panic and escape from their compound and had to be chased over a wide area.

Finally, after a last desperate attempt to break through the enemy line, the Sirhind Brigade left the firing line and rejoined the rest of the division in Ouderdom on 2nd May. The next day, the Lahore Division marched off to rejoin the Indian Corps near Neuve-Chapelle.
Between 24th April and 1st May, the Lahore Division had lost 3889 men, or 30% of the troops it had employed. It was the last time that the Indian troops were deployed on a massive scale in the Ypres Salient. This does not mean that with regular intervals, British troops were to be seen in the Flanders Westhoek. In June 1915 father Van Walleghem writes in his diary that Indian soldiers had been around for a few weeks already. He observed all strange troops who passed through or settled in his area. His diary notes are still worth reading, not only on the people he describes, but just as much on the author’s own mentality. His diary entry dated 6th June 1915 details the Indian soldiers:

Several Indian soldiers are also staying at the parish closest to Vlamertinghe. Their skin is dark, their army dress typically British apart from a turban which they have artfully wound around their heads. They speak English, some even French. They are very curious and ask and talk a lot. They would walk for half an hour to get some milk, stand around watching your every move as you serve them.

They get their Indian money out, called the rupee (2.80) and get mad when people refuse to accept their currency. They do not (or not to) understand the value of our money. By and large they are friendly and polite, yet their curiosity often gets the upper hand as they take you in from head to toe. They especially like to take a peek through the windows of our homes. They bake some type of pancakes and eat a type of seed with a very strong taste.

After May 1915, the Indian Corps saw action near Aubers Ridge, Festubert and Loos. After the Battle of Loos (25th September 1915) it was decided to send the Indian Corps to Mesopotamia. Earlier that month, the highly appreciated commander of the Indian Corps, General Willcocks, had resigned. There were different reasons for his resignation. Willcocks’ constant interest in the morale of the troops, his frequent protests against a bad employment of the corps, his concern regarding the large number of casualties and the difficulties met in replacing these casualties, his indignation on the fact that the public in India did not hear anything from the exploits of the Corps because of the very strict, often irrational censorship and the impossibility to send his men on leave - all these factors had roused peevishness with his superiors, and especially with Douglas Haig.

During the preparation for the Battle of Loos on 6th September 1915, there was an open conflict between Haig and Willcocks. Haig had lost all sympathy and patience with the Indian Corps and so General Willcocks took his conclusions and left. Later, in his book “The Indian Corps in France”, published shortly after the war, the general defended the Indian Corps - often in sharp and bitter wordings.

By the end of 1915, the Indian army Corps had left Europe. In 14 months it had lost 34,252 men. However, there were always some
Indian battalions at the Western Front, for example, during the battle of the Somme.

Apart from the dreadful conditions in which the Indian troops had to fight, the two main problems they had to face were the lack of reinforcements (from India) and the large number of casualties among the British officers. The corps did arrive in France with 10% reserves for the Indian units but these reserves were already used in replacing the sick and the unfit even before arriving at the front.

The reserve system was totally inadequate and a large number of the Indians arriving in Marseilles as reinforcements, turned out to be unfit for active service being too old, too weak, having bad health or lacking any training. The large number of victims made the problem acute. A solution was found in sending complete Indian units from India to Europe, without searching for new recruits. This, in turn, caused problems in India itself.

The replacement of British officers in the Indian Army was also a big problem. The special relationship between the British officer and his Indian rank and file has been taken into account earlier. It is evident that the arrival of new officers who did not understand anything of the Indians, did not know their background, and had problems in communicating with them, were not positive for the morale at all.

After the Indian Corps left, the Indians were no longer present in large numbers on the Western Front. However, this does not mean that there were no Indian units at all any more. At Lijssenthoek Cemetery, Poperinge for instance, a Sikh is commemorated, a cavalryman killed on 2nd November 1917.

For the Belgian population, the Indians were an experience. Young Oscar Ricour:
There were Sikhs in het hellegat and in the fire-wood. They were baking those large pancakes. One time, as I was passing by, some of them were sitting down on the ground, with open legs; around a bucket. When it was getting dark, they sang songs in their manner.

Maurits Liefooghe:
In ‘thellegat, it was full with men from India, men with turbans. Sikhs they were called. They ate all kind of pancakes, a kind of thick pancakes. We went to look at them from time to time as they were making these pancakes. They were not there for warring, to fight. They were there to transport the ammunition to the guns.

At the end of the war and in the first post-war years, there were also units of the British Indian Labour Corps active in the Flanders Westhoek. They were not military, but civilians working for the British army. The labour they did was repairing roads, clearing of the ruins etc. In September 1919, the much feared chinks (coolies) were replaced by the Indian, much to the relief of the returned population.

To end with Father Van Walleghem:
These Sikhs were somewhat curious and loved to look around everywhere, but they were not mad.

**Regiment Informations:**

9th Bhopal Infantry (-): 2 Sikhs, 2 Rajputs, 2 Moslims, 2 Brahmins

**Ranks**

First Battle of Ieper, Belgium In October 1914 (Comander in chief: Lieutenant-General H.B.B. Watkis)

**Infanterie**

**Ferozepore Brigade** (Comander: Brigadier-General R.M. Egerton) 1st Connaught Rangers (Brits) 57th Wilde’s Rifles (Frontier Force) 9th Bhopal Infantry 129th Duke of Connaught’s Own Baluchis
**Jullundur Brigade** (Comander: Major-General P.M. Carnegy) 1st Manchesters (Brits) 15th Ludhiana Sikhs 47th Sikhs 59th Scinde Rifles (Frontier Force)
**Sirhind Brigade** (Comander: Major-General J.M.S. Brunker) 1st Highland Light Infantry (Brits) 1/1st Gurkhas 1/4th Gurkhas 125th Napier’s Rifles
**Divisional Troops** 15th Lancers (Cureton’s Multanis) 34th Sikh Pioneers

**Second Battle of Ieper, Belgium** In April 1915 (Comander in chief: Major-General H. D’U. Keary)
Here are recorded names of officers and men who fell in the Ypres [Ieper] Salient but to whom the fortune of war denied the known and honoured burial given to their comrades in death. From the Menen Gate, see pictorial: at the Menen Gate

AMAR SINGH, Sep., 4944. 1st/21st Punjabis, attd. 1st/9th Bhopal Inf. 27 April, 1915. Son of Achel Singh, of Fatehpur, Jullundur, Punjab.
DEYA SINGH, Sep., 210. 15th Ludhiana Sikhs. 27th April, 1915. Son of Bir Singh, of Tapparain, Rupar, Ambala, Punjab.
BAGA SINGH, Sep., 568. 47th Sikhs. 26th April, 1915. Son of Thamman Singh, of Ladha, Dhuri, Patiala, Punjab.
DHIYAN SINGH, Sep., 3324. 57th Wilde's Rifles (Frontier Force). 1st Nov., 1914. Son of Atra, of Mangarh, Deragopipur, Kangra, Punjab.
BAGA SINGH, Sep., 647. 15th Ludhiana Sikhs. 2nd April, 1915. Son of Mahtab Singh, of Joga, Barnala, Patiala, Punjab.
GANDA SINGH, Sep., 697. 47th Sikhs. 26th April, 1915. Son of Khazan Singh, of Thuliwal, Dhuri, Patiala, Punjab.


BELA SINGH, Sep., 2507. 57th Wilde's Rifles (Frontier Force). 26th April, 1915. Son of Atar Singh, of Raya Khurd, Amritsar, Punjab.

GURDIAL, Sep., 2570. 57th Wilde's Rifles (Frontier Force). 26th April, 1915. Of Chhumi, Palampur, Kangra, Punjab.


GYAN SINGH, Sep., 2305. 89th Punjabis, attd. 9th Bhopal Inf. 28th Oct., 1914. Son of Labh Singh, of Lani Nand Singh, Dasoha, Hoshiarpur, Punjab.

BHAN SINGH, Sep., 3442. 1st/9th Bhopal Inf. 29th Oct., 1914. Son of Ram Singh.


BIR SINGH, Sep., 4168. 31st Punjabis. 26th April, 1915.


BRIJ MOHAN SINGH, Sep., 3608. 1st/9th Bhopal Inf. 28th Oct., 1914. Son of Daljit Singh, of Karkasa, Dalmau, Raibareli, U.P.

HARNAM SINGH, Sep., 212. 47th Sikhs. 26th April, 1915. Son of Sher Singh, of Mari, Lahore, Punjab.

BULAKA SINGH, Sep., 4724. 1st/23rd Sikh Pioneers, attd. 34th Sikh Pioneers. 6th May, 1915. Son of Thola Singh, of Raoke, Moga, Firozpur, Punjab.
BUTA SINGH, Sep., 3263. 35th Sikhs, attd. 47th Sikhs. 26th April, 1915. Son of Kyanhaiya Singh, of Poong Talwandi, Raiya, Sialkot, Punjab.
HARNAM SINGH, Sep., 2379. 55th Coke's Rifles (Frontier Force), attd. 57th Wilde's Rifles (Frontier Force). 26th April, 1915. Son of Khushal Singh, of Dhariwal, Batala, Gurdaspur, Punjab.
HAZARI SINGH, Sep., 2208. 11th Rajputs, attd. 9th Bhopal Inf. 27th April, 1915. Son of Ranjit Singh, of Nauner, Mainpuri, U.P.
CHANAN SINGH, Sep., 82. 15th Ludhiana Sikhs. 4th April, 1915. Son of Bishan Singh, of Kanganwal, Malerkotla, Punjab.
ISHAR SINGH, Sep., 2724. 57th Wilde's Rifles (Frontier Force). 26th April, 1915. Son of Moti Singh, of Sangat, Bhatinda, Patiala, Punjab.
CHET SINGH, Sep., 4593. 32nd Sikh Pioneers, attd. 34th Sikh Pioneers. 26th April, 1915. Son of Dalel Singh, of Chak Sarir, Gurdaspur, Punjab.
JAGAN NATHU SINGH, Sep., 3563. 1st/9th Bhopal Inf. 28th Oct., 1914. Son of Basesar Singh, of Pachchinideon, Partabgarh, U.P.
CHUR SINGH, Sep., 2035. 55th Coke's Rifles (Frontier Force), attd. 57th Wilde's Rifles (Frontier Force). 26th April, 1915. Son of Ramdit Singh, of Naura, Maloh, Nabha State, Punjab.
JAGAT SINGH, Sep., 1053. 45th Rattray's Sikhs, attd. 15th Ludhiana Sikhs. 27th April, 1915. Son of Chanda Singh, of Gillan Wali, Batala, Gurdaspur, Punjab.

JAGAT SINGH, Sep., 3516. 57th Wilde's Rifles (Frontier Force). 26th April, 1915. Son of Narayan Singh, of Kaloke, Khanga Dogra, Gujranwala, Punjab.

NATHA SINGH, Nk., 2731. 34th Sikh Pioneers. 29th April, 1915. Son of Buta Singh, of Sidhanwali, Lahore, Punjab.

JAIMAL SINGH, Sep., 3389. 35th Sikhs, attd. 47th Sikhs. 26th April, 1915. Son of Nanak Singh, of Turki Khel, Khybee, Firozpur, Punjab.

NATHA SINGH, Sep., 4899. 1st/23rd Sikh Pioneers, attd. 34th Sikh Pioneers. 29th April, 1915. Son of Ganda Singh, of Chidewala, Lahore, Punjab.

JANMEJA SINGH, Havr., 2397. 57th Wilde's Rifles (Frontier Force). 26th April, 1915. Son of Katha Singh, of Chubal, Tarn Taran, Amritsar, Punjab.


PARTAB SINGH, Subr. 1st/9th Bhopal Inf. 28th Oct., 1914. Son of Lakha Singh, of Pabi, Garhshankar, Hushaiarpur, Punjab.


KARTAR SINGH, Sep., 4589. 14th King George's Own Ferozepore Sikhs, attd. 15th Ludhiana Sikhs. 27th April, 1915. Son of Chattar Singh, of Raipur, Kharar, Ambala, Punjab.


KEHR SINGH, Nk., 2672. 57th Wilde's Rifles (Frontier Force). 26th April, 1915. Son of Nar Singh, of Sogi, Shakar Garh, Gurdaspur, Punjab.


PHULA SINGH, Sep., 4808. 32nd Sikh Pioneers, attd. 34th Sikh Pioneers. 1st May, 1915. Son of Bur Singh, of Toriah, Lahore, Punjab.

KIRPA SINGH, Jemr. 57th Wilde's Rifles (Frontier Force). 28th April, 1915. Of Bangoli, Haripur, Campbellpur, Punjab.

PHUMAN SINGH, Sep., 3432. 1st/9th Bhopal Inf. 28th Oct., 1914. LABH SINGH, Havr., 1925. 57th Wilde's Rifles (Frontier Force). 1st

PIARA SINGH, Sep., 4806. 40th Pathans. 26th April, 1915. Son of Charta, of Kotli, Gujrat, Punjab.

LAKHA SINGH, Sep., 3650. 1st/9th Bhopal Inf. 28th Oct., 1914. 

PURAN SINGH, Sep., 2623. 4th Prince Albert Victor's Rajputs. 27th April, 1915. Son of Kalyan Singh, of Ganiar, Bharthana, Etawah, U.P.


LAL SINGH, Sep., 2780. 1st/9th Bhopal Inf. 28th Oct., 1914.


MAGHAR SINGH, Sep., 978. 14th King George's Own Ferozepore Sikhs, attd. 15th Ludhiana Sikhs. 27th April, 1915. Son of Suhel Singh, of Sandoha, Bhatinda, Patiala, Punjab.

RAM SINGH, Nk., 2828. 57th Wilde's Rifles (Frontier Force). 1st Nov., 1914.


RAM SINGH, Sep., 3376. 1st/9th Bhopal Inf. 29th Oct., 1914. Son of Parag Singh, of Barebali, Bharthana, Etawah,


RANBHIR SINGH, Nk., 2276. 1st/9th Bhopal Inf. 28th Oct., 1914.

MAL SINGH, Havr., 1607. 34th Sikh Pioneers. 28th April, 1915. Son of Diwan Singh, of Masitpalkot, Garhdewala, Hushiarpur, Punjab.


MALUK SINGH, Sep., 752. 15th Ludhiana Sikhs. 27th April, 1915. Son of Phuman Singh, of Takhat, Sirsa, Hissar, Punjab.

MANGAL SINGH, Sep., 1536. 89th Punjabis, attd. 9th Bhopal Inf. 28th Oct., 1914. Son of Nihal Singh, of Chime, Tarn Taran, Amritsar, Punjab.
MUL SINGH, Sep., 2212. 47th Sikhs. 27th April, 1915. Son of Hira Singh, of Madiani, Gurdaspur, Punjab.
SANTA SINGH, Havr., 4273. 15th Ludhiana Sikhs. 27th April, 1915.
SURAIN SINGH, Havr., 1048. 47th Sikhs. 26th April, 1915. Son of Lehna Singh, of Kala, Tarn Taran, Amritsar, Punjab.
SHAM SINGH, Sep., 2704. 14th King George's Own Ferozepore Sikhs, attd. 15th Ludhiana Sikhs. 7th July, 1915.
SURAJBAKSH SINGH, Sep., 1467. 11th Rajputs, attd. 9th Bhopal Inf. 27th April, 1915. Son of Gyandin Singh, of Sugrapur, Kusurhi, Rai Bareli, U.P.
SUCHET SINGH, Sep., 1301. 19th Punjabis, attd. 15th Ludhiana Sikhs. 27th April, 1915. Son of Isar Singh, of Manko, Jullundur, Punjab.
TEJA SINGH, Sep., 3059. 34th Sikh Pioneers. 26th April, 1915. Son of Sant Singh, of Tahli, Urmar Tanda, Hushiarpur, Punjab.
SUCHET SINGH, Sep., 3815. 40th Pathans. 26th April, 1915. Son of Sahib Singh, of Batala, Bhamber, Mirpur, Jammu.
SUNDAR SINGH, Havr., 422. 47th Sikhs. 26th April, 1915. Son of Ganda Singh, of Matta, Gujranwala, Punjab.
UTTAM SINGH, Sep., 3385. 1st/9th Bhopal Inf. 29th Oct., 1914. Son of Debia Singh.
SUNDAR SINGH, Sep., 2443. 1st/9th Bhopal Inf. 28th Oct., 1914. Son of Kura, of Aima, Garhshankar, Hushiarpur, Punjab.
Sacrifices of the Sikhs in France
Their Names Liveth for Evermore

The Lahore and Meerut Divisions followed by Secunderabad Cavalry were engaged in the Western Front (France-Belgium) during World War I. Many of these soldiers were Sikhs. In the first battle of leper (22 October 1914) a platoon of Dogra Sikhs died fighting to the last man, and Jemadar Kapur Singh kept on fighting until everyone else was out of action except for one wounded sepoy. As he did not want to surrender, he committed suicide with his last bullet.

After the bloody battle of Neuve Chapelle, France (10 till 13 March 1915) the Sikh Regiments had lost eighty per cent of their men and three regiments stood at only sixteen percent of its original composition. A Sikh soldier wrote to his uncle in jallandhar (Punjab), "Thousands and hundreds of thousands of soldiers have lost their lives. If you go on the fields of battle you will see corpses piled upon corpses so that there is no place to place or put hand or foot. Men have died from the stench. No one has any hope of survival, for back to Punjab will go only those who have lost a leg or an arm or an eye. The whole world has been brought to destruction."

On October 7, 1927 the Secretary of State for India Earl of Birkenhead, unveiled the noble Memorial which has been erected by the Imperial War Graves Commission at Neuve Chapelle in France to the memory of all Indian soldiers who fell on the Western Front in the Great War of 1914-1918. This monument was designed by Sir Herbert Baker who is well known to India as one of the creators of modern Delhi. By doing so, in a special sense, too, it marks the gratitude of the great French nation which was defended from German invasion by the supreme sacrifices of the British Indian Army in France. It marks the French gratitude of the French people who built it on their soil. For the ceremony, special units including Sikhs who engaged in the actual war were brought from India with Maharaja of Kapurthala as a special guest.

Speaking on the occasion in French, Marshal Foch of the French Army who signed the Armistice document at 05:05 hours on 11 November 1918 Matthias Erzberger, the leader of the German delegation and one of the
new German leaders, stated frankly,

"The Indian Troops were thus among the first to show the way to a victorious offensive. It is only right that a Memorial should perpetuate the glorious memory of officers, non-commissioned officers and men of the British Indian Army at the very spot where later on a general attack by the Allied troops was to bring the decisive victory in sight."

Turning to the British Indian Contingent, he bade them: "Return to your home in the distant, sun bathed East and proclaim how your countrymen drenched with their blood the cold northern land of France and Flanders, how they delivered it by their ardant spirit from the firm grip of a determined enemy; tell all India that we shall watch their graves with the devotion due to all our dead. We will cherish above all the memory of their example. They showed us the way, they made the first steps towards the final victory."

These historical words of the French marshal are even true today as this Memorial is best maintained in all respect and is accorded the highest historical status and is kept clean and well decorated. A Sikh delegation from Holland, U.S.A and Dubai including Sardar Dr. Gurdit Singh and Sardar Dr. Jaideep Singh from University of California, Sardar Hardial Singh (Dubai) and the author visited this Memorial on 6 April 1998 during our official delegation visit of leper.

On the pillar are written the words, GOD IS ONE HIS IS THE VICTORY, and from the Qu'ran and the Bhagwad Gita and IK ONKAR SIR! WAHEGURU JI KE FA TEH from Siri Guru Granth Sahib is written in Gurmukhi. The names of 4,746 soldiers who died are written on the round wall of this memorial. Most of them are Sikh soldiers. There is a list available from the Database of The Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

Mr. Jeremy Gee, OBE of CWGC, was right when he wrote me back about the "important role Sikhs played in the First World War" in one of his letters dated 2 December 1997. Eight soldiers from World War II (1939-45) who were cremated are also commemorated on the walls of this memorial.

There are 151 different cemeteries-burial places in whole of France where these soldiers have been cremated and buried with full religious respect and honor. Engraved on the graves of Sikh soldiers is Ik Oankar Siri Waheguru ji Ke Fateh Sanskare Gaye in Gurmukhi. Sepoy number, full name, name of the regiment, and date of death are all printed in block letters in English. These samadhs of the Sikhs can be found across Europe. They are well maintained, cleaned, and decorated by Commonwealth War Grave Commission throughout Europe.
Similarly, most Hindu soldiers are Gorkhas, and engraved on their graves in Hindi are the words, Oom Bhagwattee Nammo. Rest of the particulars are the same. In the same way, our Muslims brothers have the holy words from Qur'an written on their graves.

It should be noted here that during the Celebration of Peace, to commemorate 300 years of Khalsa at leper (Flanders), jointly organised by the Mayor of leper and the European Sikh Community, a monument was unveiled by panj piara and this monument has the same script on it except two Khalsa khandas were added. Besides many distinguished guests from many countries and the Belgium Government, Sardar Inder Singh Jamu, then Mayor of Barking & Dagenham, Sardar Tarsem Singh Bhogal, the Mayor of Woolwich, Janab Abdul Karim Sheikh, then Mayor of New Ham were also present.

In these 151 burial places, there are 3,359 graves of identified soldiers and 390 graves of unidentified soldiers. Mazargues War Cemetery in Marseilles has 1,002 graves. Some of the other cemeteries are La Chapellette British and Indian - Peronne, Somme (320), Meerat Military, St Martun - Boulogne (313), St. Sever Extension - Rouven (271), Lillers Communal - Pas de Calais (153), Rue du Bacquerot No l Military - Laventie (144) and Hargicourt British Cemetery - Aisne. There are cemeteries that have a lone Sikh soldier or a small number of soldiers buried or cremated.

**Memorials**

There are 4 memorials where British Indian soldiers have been commemorated. Neuve-Chapelle Memorial has 4,746 names. The village of Neuve Chapelle is some 5 kilometres north of La Bassee and 20 kilometres south-west of Lille. The memorial is 800 metres south-west of the village on the east side of the road from La Bassee to Estaires.

The Memorial is a circular enclosure in the foreground of which is a column nearly 15 metres high, recalling the pillars of Asoka, surmounted by a Lotus capital, the Star of India and the Imperial Crown. On either side of the column two carved tigers guard this temple of die dead. The column and the tigers are supported by a podium, on the near side of which is carved "INDIA 1914-1918", while on the far-side are the Battle Honours of Indian units on the Western Front.

From the ends of the podium a pierced stone railing extends half-way round die circle, and the ends of die semicircle are marked by two small domed chattris, roughly East and West. The far semicircle is enclosed by a solid wall in which are carved die names of over 4,700 soldiers of the Indian Army.
Also engraved on the Memorial is the following inscription:

**TO THE HONOUR OF THE ARMY OF INDIA WHICH FOUGHT IN FRANCE AND BELGIUM, 1914-1918, AND IN PERPETUAL REMEMBRANCE OF THOSE OF THEIR DEAD WHOSE NAMES ARE HERE RECORDED AND WHO HAVE NO KNOWN GRAVE.**

In 1964 a special bronze panel was added to this memorial in honor of 210 unidentified servicemen of undivided India who died during the 1914-1918 war, whose graves are at the Zehrensdorf Indian Cemetery in East Germany. The following inscription is also engraved on the panel of the Neuve-Chapelle (Zehrensdorf Cem) memorial:

**IN HONOURED MEMORY OF THESE MEN WHO DIED IN CAPTIVITY AND WERE BURIED AT ZEHRENSDORF NEAR BERLIN.**

Also to be found at this site is the Neuve-Chapelle 1939-1945 Cremation Memorial. In 1964 the remains of eight Indian soldiers (including two unidentified) were exhumed from Sarrebourg French Military Cemetery Extension and cremated. The names of the six identified soldiers are engraved on panels at the Neuve Chapelle Memorial, together with the following inscription:

**1939 • 1945 IN HONOUR OF THESE SOLDIERS WHO DIED IN CAPTIVITY IN NORTH-WEST EUROPE AND WHOSE MORTAL REMAINS WERE COMMITTED TO FIRE.**

The other three noteworthy memorials are:
- Neuve-Chapelle (Zehrensdorf Indian Cemetery) Memorial: 206
- Arras Flying Services Memorial: 6
- Le Touret Memorial: 1

Now, from the Database of The Commonwealth War Graves Commission it can easily be concluded that the total casualties in World War I of British Indian Forces commemorated in France are,

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Commissarions on Memorial</th>
<th>4959</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total from the Cemeteries (Identified):</td>
<td>3359</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total from the Cemeteries (unidentified):</td>
<td>390</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final total:</td>
<td>8708 - 390 (Unidentified) = 8318</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(The unidentified have been commemorated on the memorial)

According to CWGC record in Belgium:
- Burials and Cremations in Cemeteries = 76
- Total Commissarions on Memorials = 417
- Unidentified = Nil
- Total in Belgium = 493
France = 8318 + Belgium = 493 Thus Total = 8811

But the story of exact figure of casualties of British Indian forces on the western Front does not end up here. There are many loopholes and thoroughly ' historical research is needed to fix the exact number of casualties. Most of the casualties are from Punjab and the Government of Punjab (India) and Government of Punjab (Pakistan) can play an important role in this research work. Mr. Dominiek Dendooven from the Documentary Center of In Flanders Fields Museum, leper (Belgium) wrote his account to me, in view of some historical facts that the Documentary Center has preserved.

"In 14 months the Indian Corps had lost 34,252 men (dead, wounded, ill, or prisoners of war) on the Western Front. I also found the figure of 7,700 sepoys who died, but that is even far below your estimation, based on the figures of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

And I am 100 % sure that you underestimate the number of casualties : you make the total from the commemorations on Memorial + identified in cemeteries + unidentified in cemeteries, but I am sure there are many more Indian casualties whose names were never recorded and who are by consequence not commemorated. I think this is due to the battle circumstances and perhaps poor administration. I give you some examples:

The losses of the 57th Wilde's Rifles and die 129th Baluchis were great during the last two days of October 1914 (during the 1st battle of leper). The Wilde's Rifles lost 300 out of 750, the Baluchis had 240 men killed, wounded or taken as POWs.

The Menin Gate in leper has the name of 15 casualties from die 47 Sikh Regiment while alone on 27 April 1915 (during die 2nd Battle of leper) out of 444 men 348 did not come back. They are nowhere else commemorated. Between 24th April and 1st May 1915, the Lahore Division had lost 3,889 men, or 30 % of the troops it had employed."

The total war dead (493) of Indian forces commemorated in Belgium by CWGC Memorial database is far less dian die actual casualties figure. Dr. Sukhdev Singh, Head of Bio-Chemistry at Guru Nanak University in Amritsar found this information most valuable and commended the work. Universities of Punjab can undertake diis project and motivate a student for a Ph.D on this subject to reasearch it further. I am sure, on being requested, the Documentary Center at die In Flanders Fields Museum in leper can provide diese students with maximum guidance and cooperation. The Commonwealth War Graves Commission is also very helpful.

I shall close my article with this historical remarks of Lt. General Sir James Wilcox, Commander of die British Indian Corps, "It was the dark days of"
1914 when our men had to face mortars, hand grenades, high explosive shells for which they themselves were not provided. They could reply only with their valour, their rifles and two machine guns per battalion. And yet they did it."

NOTE

A large number of Sikh soldiers are buried in the following cemeteries.
Gorre British and Indian Cemetery - Pas de Calais
Hargicourt British Cemetery - Aisne
La Chapelette British and Indian Cemetery, Peronne - Somme
Lillers Communal Cemetery - Pas de Calais
Mazargues War Cemetery, Marseilles - Bouches du Rhone
Meerut Military Cemetery, St. Martin- Les Boulogne - Pas de Calais
Merville Communal Cemetery - Nord
Rue du Bacquerot No. 1 Military Cemetery, Laventie - Pas de Calais
World War I casualties of the commemorated in France

Peace has its victories, but it takes brave men and women to win them.

ANZIN-ST. AUBIN BRITISH CEMETERY – PAS DE CALAIS
Commonwealth War Dead 1914-1918

BAKHTAWAR SINGH, Lance Daffadar, 2351. 29th Lancers (Deccan Horse). Died of wounds 20th June 1916. Son of Partab Singh, of Jassar, Delon, Ludhiana, Punjab. Indian Sec. 3. 

AUTHUILE MILITARY CEMETERY - SOMME
Commonwealth War Dead 1914-1918

AYETTE INDIAN AND CHINESE CEMETERY –
Pas de Calais Commonwealth War Dead 1914-1918

GULAB SINGH, Driver, 27529. Indian Royal Artillery. Died of wounds 3rd October 1918. Son of Bhuri, of Palwar, Bahadurgarh, Meerut, United Provinces. II. C. 1.
SUNDAR SINGH, Sowar 2272 39th King George's Own Central India Horse. Killed in action 1st December 1917. Next of kin Chanan Singh of Basarki, Ajnala, Tarn Taran, Amritsar, Punjab. II. C. 12

BAILLEUL COMMUNAL CEMETERY (NORD)
Nord Commonwealth War Dead 1914-1918


BETHUNE TOWN CEMETERY - Pas de Calais
Commonwealth War Dead 1914-1918

KUNWAR INDARGIT SINGH M C, Indian Medical Service attd. 57th Wilde's Rifles (Frontier Force). 24th November 1914. I. A. 23.

BRONFAY FARM MILITARY CEMETERY, BRAY-SUR-SOMME Somme Commonwealth War Dead 1914-1918

NARINJAN SINGH, Sowar, 2812. 38th King George's Own Central India Horse. 21st August 1916. I. C. 24.

BRUAY COMMUNAL CEMETERY EXTENSION
Pas de Calais Commonwealth War Dead 1914-1918


CHANDER DIP SINGH, Driver, 30996. 46th Div. Ammunition Col. Royal Horse and Field Artillery, Indian Army. 29th June 1918. A. 9.


BUCQUOY ROAD CEMETERY, FICHEUX -
Pas de Calais Commonwealth War Dead 1914-1918

DALIP SINGH, Gunner, 34739. R.A. Depot (Roorkee). Indian Royal Artillery. 30th August 1918. Beside Plot VI.

CABARET-ROUGE BRITISH CEMETERY, SOUCHEZ –
Pas de Calais Commonwealth War Dead 1914-1918


CHARMES MILITARY CEMETERY, ESSEGNEY - Vosges
Commonwealth War Dead 1914-1918

GOPAL SINGH, Sowar, 1723. 9th Hodson's Horse attd. Indian Labour Corps. 5th June 1918. II. B. 5.


CORBIE COMMUNAL CEMETERY – Somme Commonwealth War Dead 1914-1918
NAND SINGH, Sowar, 1319. 29th Lancers. 29th Lancers (Deccan Horse). 14th September 1915. Of Barodi Village, Ambala District. Plot I. Row F. Grave 1.

DAOURS COMMUNAL CEMETERY EXTENSION – Somme Commonwealth War Dead 1914-1918
ARJAN SINGH, Lance Daffadar, 1153. 33rd Queen Victoria's Own Light Cavalry attd. 20th Deccan Horse. 15th July 1916. Indian Row 1.
NAND SINGH, Sowar, 637. 33rd Queen Victoria's Own Light Cavalry attd. 20th Deccan Horse. 21st July 1916. Indian Row 4.
NARAIN SINGH, Sowar, 3814. 19th Lancers (Fane's Horse). 12th September 1916. Indian Row 7.

DUNKIRK TOWN CEMETERY – Nord Commonwealth War Dead 1914-1918

ESTAIRES COMMUNAL CEMETERY – Nord Commonwealth War Dead 1914-1918
SOHAN SINGH, Sepoy, 1910. 38th Dogras attd. 41st Dogras. 2nd August 1915. II. W. 8.

ETAPLES MILITARY CEMETERY - Pas de Calais Commonwealth War Dead 1914-1918

FAUBOURG D'AMIENS CEMETERY, ARRAS
- Pas de Calais Commonwealth War Dead 1914-1918


GORDON DUMP CEMETERY, OVILLERS-LA BOISSELLE - Somme Commonwealth War Dead 1914-1918

SAMUND SINGH, Jemadar, 9th Hodgson's Horse. Indian Army. 12th August 1916. IV. N. 1.

AUTHUILE MILITARY CEMETERY - Somme Commonwealth War Dead 1914-1918

SOURCE: COMMONWEALTH WAR GRAVES COMMISSION, MEMORIAL REGISTER

GORRE BRITISH AND INDIAN CEMETERY - Pas de Calais Commonwealth War Dead 1914-1918


BAHAL SINGH, Sowar, 1376. 22nd Sam Browne's Cavalry (Frontier Force). Died of wounds 2nd July 1917. Son of Raj Kaur, of Bhila Lahore, Punjab. Indian. B. 3.

BAHORAN SINGH, Sowar, 2882. 29th Lancers (Deccan Horse). Died of wounds 10th June 1917. Son of Khwani Singh and Khusi Ram, of Rajpur, Bulandshahr, U.P. Indian. A. 1.

BALWANT SINGH, Lance Daffadar, 856. 22nd Sam Browne's Cavalry (Frontier Force) attd. 2nd Lancers (Gardner's Horse). Died of wounds 2nd July 1917. Son of Dyal Kaur, of Pachadi, Amritsar, Punjab. Indian. C. 2.

BHAGWAN SINGH, Lance Daffadar, 3355. 35th Scinde Horse attd. 38th King George's Own Central India Horse. Died of wounds 2nd July 1917. Son of Tara Singh, of Sheikha, Gurdaspur, Punjab. Indian. C. 1.


INDAR SINGH, Sowar, 3138. 38th King George's Own Central India Horse. Killed in action 3rd June 1917. Indian. A. 2.


SANTA SINGH, Sowar, 3232. 38th King George's Own Central India Horse. Died of wounds 6th July 1917. Indian. C. 3.

ISRAM SINGH
SISRAM SINGH, Sowar, 2563. 29th Lancers (Deccan Horse). Killed in action 11th June 1917. Son of Sukhdeo, of Rangpuri; husband of Sarti, of Rangpuri, Delhi. Indian. A. 3.

SOHAN SINGH, Sowar, 2488. 38th King George's Own Central India Horse. Killed in action 2nd July 1917. Indian. B. 4.

HAZEBROUCK COMMUNAL CEMETERY - Nord Commonwealth War Dead 1914-1918

BASAWA SINGH, Sepoy, 856. 45th Rattray's Sikhs. 4th May 1915. II. D. 7.

DAYA SINGH, Sepoy, 2355. 14th King George's Own Ferozepore Sikhs. 16th November 1914. I. B. 27.

LA CHAPELETTE BRITISH AND INDIAN CEMETERY, PERONNE – Somme Commonwealth War Dead 1914-1918

ACHHAR SINGH, Sowar, 2987. 38th King George's Own Central India Horse. 5th December 1917. Brother of Samundar Singh, of Thatti, Jandiala, Amritsar, Punjab. III. A. 3.


ANOKH SINGH, Sowar, 3376. 38th King George's Own Central India Horse. 6th June 1917. Son of Ishar Kaur, of Aima, Chabal, Tarantaran, Amritsar, Punjab. II. A. 3.

ASSA SINGH, Lance Daffadar, 2735. 38th King George's Own Central India Horse. 2nd December 1917. Husband of Achhri, of Sangatpura, Sirhali, Taran Taran, Amritsar, Punjab. I. B. 2.


KESAR SINGH, Sowar, 3923. 19th Lancers (Fane's Horse). 28th July 1917. II. A. 10.


LAKHPAT SINGH, Sowar, 2610. 29th Lancers (Deccan Horse). 6th July 1918. Son of Shibsahai, of Shahdra, Meerut, U.P. III.


MUL SINGH, Sowar, 1228. 34th Prince Albert Victor's Own Poona Horse. 30th May 1917. Brother of Ranjit Singh, of Arlai, Pajun, Jodhpur, Rajputana. II. A. 2.


RAM SINGH, Sowar, 313. 11th King Edward's Own Lancers (Probyn's Horse) attd. 19th Lancers (Fane's Horse). 7th June 1917. II. A. 4.


UJAGAR SINGH, Sowar, 2340. 38th King George's Own Central India Horse. 5th December 1917. Son of Kala Singh, of Bhail, Fatehabad, Amritsar, Punjab. III. A. 4.

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**LA TARGETTE BRITISH CEMETERY, NEUVILLE-ST. VAAST - Pas de Calais Commonwealth War Dead 1914-1918**


LILLERS COMMUNAL CEMETERY - Pas de Calais
Commonwealth War Dead 1914-1918


ARJAN SINGH, Sepoy, 2403. 34th Sikh Pioneers. 24th November 1914. III. C. 4.


CHHAJJA SINGH, Sapper, 2267. 1st King George's Own Sappers and Miners. 8th May 1915. Son of Nihal Singh, of Chas Majra, Chakkri, Jhelum. III. C. 4.


INDAR SINGH NEGI


JAG SINGH, Sapper, 2279. 4th Coy. 1st King George's Own Sappers and Miners. 18th December 1914. Son of Chandi, of Satanj, Sanam, Patiala. III. C. 4.

JHANDA SINGH, Driver, 841. 7th Mountain Bty. Royal Garrison Artillery, Indian Army. 8th January 1915. III. C. 5.

KALYAN SINGH RAWAT, Rifleman, 1868. 1st Bn. 39th Garhwal Rifles. 18th March 1915. Son of Chandar Singh, of Sarana, Chalansyun, Dewalgarh, Garwhal. II. B. 22.

LALTA SINGH, Sepoy, 2191. 89th Punjabis attd. 9th Bhopal Infantry. 4th February 1915. Son of Rupa, of Barka Naiman, Gonda. II. B. 24.

RALLA SINGH, Sepoy, 1367. 47th Sikhs. 18th March 1915. Son of Naraino, of Bhojowal, Jullundur. III. C. 2.


RATAN SING RAWAT, Rifleman, 743. 2nd Bn. 39th Garhwal Rifles. 12th March 1915. Son of Thampali Suplodi, Ghindorsyam, Dewalgarh, Chitalghar, Garhwal. II. B. 5.


SAUDAGAR SINGH, Driver, 854. 7th Mountain Bty. Royal Garrison Artillery, Indian Army. 8th January 1915. III. C. 5.


SOHAN SINGH, Driver, 826. 7th Mountain Bty. Royal Garrison Artillery, Indian Army. 8th January 1915. III. C. 5.

UDA SINGH, Sepoy, 755. 15th Ludhiana Sikhs. 30th January 1915. Son of Kahno, of Man, Jagraon, Ludhiana. II. B. 23.

LONDON CEMETERY AND EXTENSION, LONGUEVAL – Somme Commonwealth War Dead 1914-1918

GANESHA SINGH, Jemadar, 35th Scinde Horse attd. 36th Jacob's Horse. 1st December 1917. Son of Hakin Singh, of Gurdaspur, Punjab, India. Coll. grave 11.C.4-5.

LONGUENESSE (ST. OMER) SOUVENIR CEMETERY - Pas de Calais Commonwealth War Dead 1914-1918

AMAR SINGH, Sepoy, 1674. 41st Dogras. 6th November 1914. VI. Indian. 1.
CHATTWO SINGH, Sepoy, 1221. 41st Dogras. 4th November 1914. VI. Indian. 3.

MAZARGUES WAR CEMETERY, MARSEILLES –
Bouches-du-Rhone Commonwealth War Dead 1914-1918


HARDITT SINGH, Gunner, 40771. Indian Royal Artillery (Roorkee). 20th December 1918. Son of Bhup, of Chamsuwala, Nagina, Bijnaur, United Provinces. V. B. 5.
HARI SINGH, Havildar, 2337. 9th Bhopal Infantry. 18th December 1918. Son of Natha Singh, of Medpur, Ludhiana, Punjab. VIII. D. 6.


ISHAR SINGH, Sowar, 2841. 18th King George's Own Lancers. 21st April 1917. Sp. Mem. (S.W.).


KALA SINGH, Sowar, 1790. 20th Deccan Horse. 6th June 1918. Son of Harnam Singh, of Nalluwal, Sonam, Patiala, Punjab. VIII. C. 23.


KARM KHAN, Sowar, 3090. 19th Lancers (Fane's Horse). 24th July 1917. Son of Fateh Khan, of Bala, Khushat, Shahpur, Punjab. VIII. B. 19.

KARM SINGH, Sowar, 3044. 29th Lancers (Deccan Horse). 8th May 1918. Son of Udhai Ram, of Sisar, Asi, Hissar, Punjab. VII. A. 5.

KEDAR SINGH, Follower, 16224. Followers Central Depot. 9th October 1918. VIII. C. 10.


MAHABIR SINGH, Havildar, 2095. 9th Bhopal Infantry. 21st December 1918. Son of Bahadur Singh, of Tikari, Rai Pore, Sultanpur, United Provinces. V. B. 12.


PARKASH SINGH, Sowar, 2613. 16th Indian Cavalry. 6th March 1918. Son of Prithi Singh, of Kharot, Kathua, Jammu State, Punjab. VII. H. 8.


RUP SINGH, Sowar, 3362. 34th Prince Albert Victor's Own Poona Horse. 6th March 1918. Son of Mahdo Singh, of Bara, Jodhpur, Rajputana. VII. H. 22.


SHER SINGH, Sowar, 2232. 2nd Lancers (Gardner's Horse). 23rd April 1918. Son of Kadhai Singh, of Jaura, Milak, Moradabad, United Provinces. VII. D. 31.


SUKHDEO SINGH, Labourer, 1044/D. Indian Labour Corps. 15th March 1918. VII. C. 12.


SURMUKH SINGH, Sowar, 2587. 39th King George's Own Central India Horse attd. 38th King George's Own Central India Horse. 26th July 1917. Son of Chatar Singh, of Bultar Moga, Ferozepore, Punjab. Sp. Mem. (S.W.).


URAN SINGH, Follower, Indian Army. 4th March 1918. VII. H. 11.


SOURCE: COMMONWEALTH WAR GRAVES COMMISSION, MEMORIAL REGISTER MEERUT MILITARY CEMETERY, ST. MARTIN-LES-BOULOGNE - Pas de Calais

Commonwealth War Dead 1914-1918

BACHITTAR SINGH, Rifleman, 129. 59th Scinde Rifles (Frontier Force). Died of pneumonia 14th March 1915. Son of Kaintu, of Barandah, Nurpur, Kangra, Punjab. I. C. 24


CHANNA SINGH, Sowar, 872. 20th Deccan Horse. Died of wounds 12th November 1914. Son of Jamit Singh, of Fazalpura, Patiala, Punjab. I. A. 60.


DAUL SINGH, Sepoy, 2618. 52nd Sikhs (Frontier Force) attd. 59th Scinde Rifles (Frontier Force). Died of wounds 24th March 1915. Son of Teja, of Sims, Mandi, Punjab. II. A. 27.


DIYAL SINGH, Sepoy, 1565. 12th (Kelat-i-Ghilzie Regt) Indian Pioneers attd. 34th Sikh Pioneers. Died of wounds 17th September 1915. Cremation Memorial.


INDAR SINGH, Sowar, 2986. 38th King George's Own Central India Horse. Died of pneumonia 19th May 1915. Son of Jiwan Singh, of Budha Theh, Amritsar, Punjab. II. B. 3.


LACHMAN SINGH, Driver, 18191. 3rd Ammunition Col. Royal Horse and Field Artillery, Indian Army attd. Sirhind Bde.. Died of sickness 9th June 1915. I. B. 48.


PHAGGA SINGH, Sepoy, 778. 12th (Kelat-i-Ghilzie Regt) Indian Pioneers attd. 34th Sikh Pioneers. Died of wounds 10th April 1915. Son of Shamira Singh, of Sharakpur, Sheikhpura, Punjab. II. A. 20.


RAM SINGH LILA, Follower, 3944. Army Bearer Corps attd. 7th British Field Amb.. 23rd February 1915. I. B. 14


SANT SINGH, Sepoy, 2542. 57th Wilde's Rifles (Frontier Force). Died of wounds 26th March 1915. I. C. 34.


SARBAN SINGH, Sapper, 3811. 20th Coy. 3rd Sappers and Miners. Died of wounds 13th April 1915. Son of Kala Singh, of Rajiana, Moga, Ferozepore, Punjab. II. A. 23.


MERVILLE COMMUNAL CEMETERY - Nord
Commonwealth War Dead 1914-1918


JAWALA SINGH, Sepoy, 4226. 36th Sikhs attd. 47th Sikhs. 29th September 1915. VIII. B. 3.


KEHR SINGH, Sepoy, 1436. 89th Punjabis. Died of wounds 27th October 1915. Son of Rupan, of Bare, Boha, Patiala. VIII. D. 4.


NARAIN SINGH, Lance Naik, 6745. 89th Punjabis. 11th September 1915. III. V. 3.


UTTAM SINGH, Sepoy, 2279. 29th Punjabis. 1st October 1915. VIII. C. 3.


MORLANCOURT BRITISH CEMETERY NO. 1 –
Somme Commonwealth War Dead 1914-1918

BUKAN SINGH, Lance Daffadar, 2935. 21st Prince Albert Victor's Own Cavalry (F.F.) (Daly's Horse). 15th July 1916. B. 35

MEMORIAL –
Pas de Calais Commonwealth War Dead 1914-1918
NEUVE-CHAPELLE (ZEHRENSDORF INDIAN CEMETERY)
MEMORIAL REGISTER

BABU SINGH, Sepoy, 3699. 9th Bhopal Infantry. 28th March 1917. Son of Joga Singh, of Buddipind, Dasuya, Hoshiarpur, Punjab.

BACHAN SINGH, Sepoy, 3480. 9th Bhopal Infantry. 4th August 1915. Son of Nakcha Singh.


BENI MADHO SINGH, Sepoy, 3644. 9th Bhopal Infantry. 18th December 1916.

BHAGAT SINGH, Sepoy, 3439. 9th Bhopal Infantry. 5th December 1915.

BHUALI SINGH, Sepoy, 3642. 9th Bhopal Infantry. 25th July 1915.

CHANDARPAL SINGH, Sepoy, 2146. 9th Bhopal Infantry. 2nd August 1915. Son of Beni Madho Singh, of Bilba Kunda, Partabgarh, United Provinces.

DARSHAM SINGH, Sepoy, 3364. 9th Bhopal Infantry. 19th February 1916. Son of Daryai Singh, of Berhu Garhi, Hasanganj, Unao, United Provinces.

DEWA SINGH, Sepoy, 403. 1st Bn. 21st Punjabis attd. 9th Bhopal Infantry. 29th May 1916. Son of Partap Singh, of Amar Singh, Ka Kila, Daska, Sialkot, Punjab.

FATEH SINGH, Sepoy, 3696. 9th Bhopal Infantry. 16th December 1916. Son of Atma Singh, of Gujarwal, Ludhiana, Punjab.

GANDA SINGH, Havildar, 2200. 54th Sikhs (Frontier Force) attd. 58th Vaughan's Rifles (Frontier Force). 23rd March 1917. Son of Thakar Singh, of Salabatpura, Dhanaula, Patiala, Punjab.

GOPAL SINGH, Sepoy, 2757. 34th Sikh Pioneers. 4th June 1916. Son of Jiwa Singh, of Tangra, Amritsar, Punjab.
HARNAM SINGH, Sapper, 3775. 3rd Sappers and Miners. 16th March 1917. Son of Gurditt Singh, of Sindavad, Ludhiana, Punjab.

HARNAM SINGH, Havildar, 3601. 9th Bhopal Infantry. 30th July 1916.

ISHAR SINGH, Havildar, 3491. 9th Bhopal Infantry. 10th July 1915.


JASKARAN SINGH, Follower, 1323. 89th Punjabis. 5th February 1915. Son of Kamghulam Singh, of Ajgara, Azamgarh, United Provinces.

KAMNAT SINGH, Sepoy, 9th Bhopal Infantry. 7th November 1915.

KESAR SINGH, Sepoy, 185. 21st Punjabis. 2nd February 1917. Son of Kharak Singh, of Jhun, Sialkot, Punjab.

KHEM SINGH, Sepoy, 4532. 21st Punjabis. 30th June 1916. Son of Waryam Singh, of Buthgarh, Hoshiarpur, Punjab.


MANGAL SINGH, Sepoy, 2713. 9th Bhopal Infantry. 21st April 1915. Son of Amar Singh, of Deor, Teonthar, Rewa, Central India.

PAHALWAN SINGH, Havildar, 3665. 9th Bhopal Infantry. 2nd July 1916. Son of Naringyan Singh.


RACHPAL SINGH, Sepoy, 2198. 9th Bhopal Infantry. 31st January 1915. Son of Sewa Singh, of Gallautha, Fatehpur, United Provinces.

RAGHUBIR SINGH, Sepoy, 3099. 9th Bhopal Infantry. 9th September 1915. Son of Pitam Singh, of Jargaon, Orai, Jalaun, United Provinces.

RAM NARESH SINGH, Sepoy, 3666. 9th Bhopal Infantry. 12th March 1916.

RAM NATH SINGH, Sepoy, 3625. 9th Bhopal Infantry. 5th March 1916.

RAM SINGH, Sepoy, 2684. 9th Bhopal Infantry. 7th April 1916. Son of Man Singh, of Bhujkar, Jagraon, Ludhiana, Punjab.

RAMASRE SINGH, Sepoy, 3255. 9th Bhopal Infantry. 21st August 1916. Son of Santa Singh, of Fazalpur, Musafirkhana, Sultanpur, United Province.

RAMDHARI SINGH THAKUR, Follower, 2393. 89th Punjabis attd. 9th Bhopal Infantry. 24th July 1916.
SARUP SINGH, Sepoy, 2806. 9th Bhopal Infantry. 11th March 1917. Son of Atibol Singh, of Odhi, Etawah, United Provinces.

SHEORAJ SINGH, Sepoy, 2140. 9th Bhopal Infantry. 22nd April 1915.

SHER SINGH, Sepoy, 3784. 9th Bhopal Infantry. 14th December 1916.

SOHAN SINGH, Sepoy, 3652. 9th Bhopal Infantry. 5th July 1915.

THAKUR SINGH, Follower, 2392. 89th Punjabis. 7th September 1915. Son of Segobind Singh, of Narayanger, Ballia, United Provinces.

THAKUR SINGH, Lance Naik, 3763. 9th Bhopal Infantry. 7th February 1916.

NEUVE-CHAPELLE MEMORIAL –
Pas de Calais Commonwealth War Dead 1914-1918
NEUVE-CHAPELLE MEMORIAL REGISTER

ACHHAR SINGH, Sepoy, 743. 47th Sikhs. 28th October 1914. Son of Gujar Singh, of Kaharali, Rupar, Ambala, Punjab. Panel 37

ACHHAR SINGH, Sowar, 4001. 19th Lancers (Fane's Horse). 10th September 1916. Son of Ram Singh, of Khanpar, Amritsar, Punjab. Panel 7

AJAIB SINGH, Sepoy, 2769. 34th Sikh Pioneers. 23rd November 1914. Son of Kehar Singh, of Dharampura, Khangah Dagran, Sheikhupura, Punjab. Panel 29 and 30


AMAR SINGH, Sepoy, 2434. 1st Bn. 9th Bhopal Infantry. 20th December 1914. Son of Atar Singh, of Asi, Ludhiana, Punjab. Panel 38

AMAR SINGH, Driver, 19291. Royal Horse and Field Artillery, Indian Army. 12th December 1917. Panel 1 and 2


AMAR SINGH, Sepoy, 3465. 57th Wilde's Rifles (Frontier Force). 22nd December 1914. Son of Sham Singh, of Bahra, Kathua, Kashmir. Panel 23

AMAR SINGH, Sowar, 2989. 6th King Edward's Own Cavalry. 11th December 1916. Son of Mukh Ram, of Bidal, Gohana, Rohtak, Punjab. Addenda Panel

AMAR SINGH, Sepoy, 2393. 47th Sikhs. 12th March 1915. Son of Kahan Singh, of Gil, Moga, Ferozepore, Punjab. Panel 37

AMAR SINGH, Sepoy, 1633. 1st Bn. 41st Dogras. 9th May 1915. Son of Achhar Singh, of Amb, Una, Hoshiarpur, Punjab. Panel 34

AMAR SINGH, Lance Daffadar, 1040. 20th Deccan Horse. 13th June 1917. Son of Udmi Singh, of Dhandhine, Jhajjar, Rohtak, Punjab. Panel 7

AMAR SINGH, Sepoy, 946. 1st Bn. 41st Dogras. 22nd December 1914. Son of Dasi, of Karoti, Nurpur, Kangra, Punjab. Panel 34

AMAR SINGH, Sepoy, 125. 45th Rattray's Sikhs attd. 15th Ludhiana Sikhs. 18th May 1915. Son of Sundar Singh, of Palher, Pasrur, Sialkot, Punjab. Panel 37

AMAR SINGH, Sepoy, 3103. 54th Sikhs (Frontier Force) attd. 58th Vaughan's Rifles (Frontier Force). 25th September 1915. Son of Lehna Singh, of Shanilekar, Shakargarh, Gurdaspur, Punjab. Panel 22

AMIR SINGH, Sepoy, 2907. 34th Sikh Pioneers. 23rd November 1914. Son of Sant Singh, of Dhaban Kalan, Khangah, Dogran, Sheikhupura, Punjab. Panel 29 and 30

ARJAN SINGH, Sowar, 721. 20th Deccan Horse. 21st December 1914. Son of Harnam Singh, of Chandanwal, Ludhiana, Punjab. Panel 7

ARJAN SINGH, Sepoy, 3537. 35th Sikhs attd. 47th Sikhs. 18th September 1915. Son of Kahan Singh, of Chak No. 437, Samundri, Lyallpur, Punjab. Panel 30


ARJAN SINGH, Sepoy, 2873. 1st Bn. 9th Bhopal Infantry. 23rd November 1914. Son of Newa Singh, of Rampur, Patiala, Punjab. Panel 38

ARJAN SINGH, Sowar, 2548. 6th King Edward's Own Cavalry. 8th January 1915. Son of Ram Singh. Panel 4

ARJAN SINGH, Sepoy, 2495. 34th Sikh Pioneers. 26th October 1914. Of Khuddi Sadhanwani, Barnala, Patiala, Punjab. Panel 29 and 30

ARJAN SINGH, Sepoy, 2374. 34th Sikh Pioneers. 11th July 1915. Son of Ram Singh, of Fatehgarh, Zira, Ferozepore, Punjab. Panel 29 and 30

ARJAN SINGH, Lance Naik, 2324. 34th Sikh Pioneers. 23rd November 1914. Son of Wadhawa Singh, of Masiti, Dasuya, Hashiarpur, Punjab. Panel 29 and 30

ARJAN SINGH, Daffadar, 1402. 29th Lancers (Deccan Horse). 9th January 1915. Son of Aya Singh, of Sant Pure, Kharian, Gujrat, Punjab. Panel 7 and 8


ARJAN SINGH, Sepoy, 2309. 47th Sikhs. 27th October 1914. Son of Anokh Singh, of Bhurwali, Ludhiana, Punjab. Panel 37

ATAR SINGH, Sowar, 1799. 20th Deccan Horse. 20th December 1917. Son of Sawan Singh, of Kher, Ambala, Punjab. Panel 7


ATTAR SINGH, Sepoy, 2641. 34th Sikh Pioneers. 23rd November 1914. Of Mansa, Patiala, Punjab. Panel 29 and 30

BABU SINGH, Sepoy, 1773. 47th Sikhs. 27th October 1914. Son of Sawan Singh, of Raya, Ludhiana, Punjab. Panel 37

BABU SINGH, Sepoy, 3603. 1st Bn. 9th Bhopal Infantry. 20th December 1914. Son of Sultani, of Basihasth Khan, Hoshiarpur, Punjab. Panel 38


BADAN SINGH, Sepoy, 2787. 34th Sikh Pioneers. 23rd November 1914. Son of Hakam Singh, of Nawashahr, Jullundur, Punjab. Panel 29 and 30

BADAN SINGH, Daffadar, 2816. 37th Lancers (Baluch Horse) attd. 36th Jacob's Horse. 23rd September 1918. Son of Mehar Singh, of Manki, Ludhiana, Punjab. Panel 7

BADAN SINGH, Risaldar, 29th Lancers (Deccan Horse). 6th April 1915. Son of Buta Singh, of Dohnagira, Khurd, Ludhiana, Punjab. Panel 7 and 8

BAGA SINGH, Lance Naik, 4645. 15th Ludhiana Sikhs. 15th November 1914. Son of Harnam Singh, of Chime, Sunam, Patiala, Punjab. Panel 18

BAGA SINGH, Sepoy, 927. 15th Ludhiana Sikhs. 16th December 1914. Son of Bhagat Singh, of Kamaloo, Mansa, Patiala, Punjab. Panel 18


BAGH SINGH, Sepoy, 400. 69th Punjabis. 25th September 1915. Son of Sher Singh, of Ghasitpur, Shakargarh, Gurdaspur, Punjab. Panel 10

BAISAKHA SINGH, Naik, 1649. 34th Sikh Pioneers. 23rd November 1914. Son of Ratan Singh, of Raya, Patiala, Punjab. Panel 29 and 30

BAISAKHI SINGH, Sepoy, 2091. 47th Sikhs. 21st December 1914. Panel 37

BAKHSHI SINGH, Sepoy, 823. 47th Sikhs. 21st December 1914. Son of Nand Singh, of Dakhe, Ludhiana, Punjab. Panel 37

BAKHISHISH SINGH, Sowar, 520. 31st Duke of Connaught's Own Lancers attd. 29th Lancers (Deccan Horse). 23rd March 1917. Son of Rudr Singh, of Umedpur, Ludhiana, Punjab. Panel 3
BAKHTAWAR SINGH, Lance Daffadar, 2149. 36th Jacob's Horse. 9th January 1915. Son of Sundar Singh, of Chimey, Patiala, Punjab. Panel 5

BAKHTAWAR SINGH, Sowar, 2561. 6th King Edward's Own Cavalry. 21st December 1917. Panel 4


BALDEO SINGH, Sowar, 2379. 6th King Edward's Own Cavalry. 15th March 1918. Son of Bhag Mal, of Dubhaldan, Rohtak, Punjab. Panel 4

BALLA SINGH, Sepoy, 931. 47th Sikhs. 21st December 1914. Son of Ganda Singh, of Khanpur, Amritsar, Punjab. Panel 37

BALWANT SINGH, Sowar, 2773. 30th Lancers (Gordon's Horse). 13th June 1915. Son of Lal Singh, of Saidpur, Bulandshahr, United Provinces. Panel 8

BANASINGH, Follower, MT/237. Supply and Transport Corps. 22nd May 1915. Panel 38 and 39

BANTA SINGH, Sepoy, 1625. 69th Punjabis. 25th September 1915. Son of Gurditt Singh, of Bhagpur, Hoshiarpur, Punjab. Panel 10


BANTA SINGH, Sepoy, 3718. 35th Sikhs attd. 47th Sikhs. 22nd August 1915. Son of Khushal Singh, of Mari Kambike, Kasur, Lahore, Punjab. Panel 30

BASAKHA SINGH, Sepoy, 3735. 107th Indian Pioneers. 10th March 1915. Son of Rur Singh, of Khori, Kharian, Gujrat, Punjab. Panel 11

BASANT SINGH, Sepoy, 2204. 38th Dogras attd. 1st Bn. 39th Garhwal Rifles. 10th March 1915. Son of Nanak, of Garhmula, Shakargarh, Gurdaspur, Punjab. Panel 30


BASANT SINGH, Sapper, 963. 1st King George's Own Sappers and Miners. 6th May 1915. Son of Daya Singh, of Baronga, Nabha, Punjab. Panel 9

BASANT SINGH, Naik, 1091. 47th Sikhs. 10th October 1915. Son of Hakim Singh, of Kishen Pur, Jullundur, Punjab. Panel 37

BASANT SINGH, Sepoy, 1921. 34th Sikh Pioneers. 23rd November 1914. Son of Nagina Singh, of Maihalpur Garhshankar, Hoshiapur, Punjab. Panel 29 and 30
BASAWA, Follower, 15th Ludhiana Sikhs. 31st December 1914. Panel 18

BASAWA SINGH, Sapper, 3572. 3rd Sappers and Miners. 13th March 1915. Son of Bishun Singh, of Akal Garh, Kharar, Ambala, Punjab. Panel 9


BAWA SINGH, Sepoy, 958. 47th Sikhs. 21st December 1914. Son of Natha Singh, of Malikpur, Batala, Gurdaspur, Punjab. Panel 37


BELA SINGH, Sepoy, 1708. 34th Sikh Pioneers. 23rd November 1914. Son of Lal Singh, of Burewala, Khangah Dogran, Sheikhpura, Punjab. Panel 29 and 30


BETA SINGH, Sepoy, 1115. 1st Bn. 41st Dogras. 9th May 1915. Son of Prithi Singh, of Motlah, Chamba, Punjab. Panel 34

BHAG SINGH, Sepoy, 2931. 52nd Sikhs (Frontier Force) attd. 59th Scinde Rifles (Frontier Force). 18th March 1915. Son of Radha, of Separujan, Dasuya, Hoshiarpur, Punjab. Panel 21 and 22


BHAG SINGH, Sepoy, 3014. 34th Sikh Pioneers. 23rd November 1914. Son of Bhola Singh, of Kheri, Gujrat, Punjab. Panel 29 and 30


BHAG SINGH, Sepoy, 1585. 47th Sikhs. 27th October 1914. Son of Kesar Singh, of Gowara, Kot Kapura, Farid Kot, Punjab. Panel 37

BHAGAT SINGH, Sepoy, 3436. 59th Scinde Rifles (Frontier Force). 25th November 1914. Son of Nurang Singh, of Kahra, Nurpur, Kangra Punjab. Panel 25
BHAGAT SINGH, Sepoy, 3472. 54th Sikhs (Frontier Force) attd. 58th Vaughan's Rifles (Frontier Force). 25th September 1915. Son of Lehana Singh, of Babowal, Amritsar, Punjab. Panel 22

BHAGAT SINGH, Sepoy, 2853. 34th Sikh Pioneers. 26th October 1914. Of Ramgarh Khangah, Dogran, Sheikhupura, Punjab. Panel 29 and 30

BHAGAT SINGH, Sepoy, 2777. 34th Sikh Pioneers. 23rd November 1914. Son of Labh Singh, of Gujrat, Punjab. Panel 29 and 30

BHAGAT SINGH, Naik, 2606. 34th Sikh Pioneers. 24th November 1914. Panel 29 and 30

BHAGAT SINGH, Sepoy, 2247. 34th Sikh Pioneers. 26th October 1914. Son of Sundar Singh, of Dhudial, Chakwal, Jhelum, Punjab. Panel 29 and 30

BHAGAT SINGH, Driver, 987. 23rd Mule Corps. 10th December 1914. Panel 39

BHAGAT SINGH, Sepoy, 4658. 32nd Sikh Pioneers attd. 34th Sikh Pioneers. 27th February 1916. Son of Badon, of Gujrat, Punjab. Panel 28

BHAGAT SINGH, Sepoy, 1567. 47th Sikhs. 12th April 1915. Son of Hazara Singh, of Rampur, Patiala, Punjab. Panel 37


BHAGWAN SINGH, Havildar, 3539. 15th Ludhiana Sikhs. 16th February 1915. Son of Gurditt Singh, of Jhandujala, Garhshankar, Hoshiarpur, Punjab. Panel 18


BHAGWAN SINGH, Sepoy, 2901. 34th Sikh Pioneers. 23rd November 1914. Son of Sundar Singh, of Chitton, Hoshiarpur, Punjab. Panel 29 and 30

BHAGWAN SINGH, Sepoy, 2830. 34th Sikh Pioneers. 1st November 1914. Son of Dewa Singh, of Kapurthala, Punjab. Panel 29 and 30

BHAGWAN SINGH, Lance Naik, 2429. 34th Sikh Pioneers. 6th April 1915. Son of Hira Singh, of Dhaban, Khangah Dogran, Sheikhupura, Punjab. Panel 29 and 30

BHAGWAN SINGH, Sepoy, 1453. 47th Sikhs. 21st December 1914. Son of Tharmnan Singh, of Panj Garai, Malerkotla, Punjab. Panel 37

BHAIJAN, Sepoy, 1932. 10th Jats. 22nd December 1914. Son of Deba, of Balali, Badri, Jind, Punjab. Panel 16
BHAJAN SINGH, Sowar, 2898. 38th King George's Own Central India Horse. 29th September 1917. Son of Kishan Singh, of Gajiana, Moga, Ferozepore, Punjab. Panel 8

BHAJAN SINGH, Sepoy, 2818. 34th Sikh Pioneers. 23rd November 1914. Son of Jiwa Singh, of Ludhiana, Punjab. Panel 29 and 30

BHAN SINGH, Sowar, 3263. 9th Hodson's Horse. Died at Ambala, on return from France and Flanders. 10th June 1915. Son of Buta Singh, of Jaurian, Batala, Gurdaspur, Punjab. Panel 6 and 7

BHAN SINGH, Sepoy, 306. 47th Sikhs. 27th October 1914. Son of Sultani Singh, of Madhopur, Ludhiana, Punjab. Panel 37

BHAJAN SINGH, Lance Daffadar, 1647. 2nd Lancers (Gardner's Horse). 30th January 1918. Son of Gujjar Singh, of Dhardeo, Amritsar, Punjab. Panel 3

BHAJAN SINGH, Lance Daffadar, 1875. 2nd Lancers (Gardner's Horse). 1st December 1917. Son of Chattar Singh, of Sadhar, Jagraon, Ludhiana, Punjab. Panel 3

BHANGA SINGH, Sepoy, 995. 45th Rattray's Sikhs attd. 15th Ludhiana Sikhs. 18th May 1915. Son of Bhola Singh, of Dad, Faridkot, Punjab. Panel 37

BHARAT SINGH, Sowar, 1600. 22nd Sam Browne's Cavalry (Frontier Force) attd. 34th Prince Albert Victor's Own Poona Horse. 21st July 1918. Son of Mohobat Singh, of Nanu Kalan, Gurgaon, Punjab. Panel 5

BHUKAN SINGH, Sowar, 3165. 29th Lancers (Deccan Horse). 9th April 1918. Son of Tula Singh, of Jagatpur, Delhi. Panel 7 and 8

BHIMRAJ SINGH, Labourer, 1024. Indian Labour Corps. 27th May 1917. Panel 39 to 41


BHOLA SINGH, Sowar, 3435. 35th Scinde Horse attd. 36th Jacob's Horse. 1st December 1917. Son of Sher Singh, of Chicha, Amritsar, Punjab. Panel 4

BHOLA SINGH, Sepoy, 2638. 34th Sikh Pioneers. 23rd November 1914. Panel 29 and 30

BHOLA SINGH, Bugler, 1826. 47th Sikhs. 21st December 1914. Son of Ganesha Singh, of Bluthewal, Gurdaspur, Punjab. Panel 37

BHOLA SINGH, Havildar, 776. 33rd Punjabis. 25th September 1915. Son of Rai Singh, of Rattowal, Jagraon, Ludhiana, Punjab. Panel 28 and 29

BHOLA SINGH, Sepoy, 2915. 34th Sikh Pioneers. 5th December 1914. Son of Kahan Singh, of Rampura, Lahore, Punjab. Panel 29 and 30

BHOLA SINGH, Sepoy, 2934. 34th Sikh Pioneers. 26th October 1914. Of Dharampura, Khangah Dogram, Sheikhupura, Punjab. Panel 29 and 30

BHOLA SINGH, Sepoy, 3376. 107th Indian Pioneers. 15th November 1914. Son of Sawan Singh, of Tanda, Gujrat, Punjab. Panel 11

BHOLA SINGH, Sepoy, 2972. 3rd Sappers and Miners. 29th October 1914. Son of Kanha Singh, of Kangas, Patiala, Punjab. Panel 9

BHOLA SINGH, Sapper, 2745. 18th King George's Own Lancers. 16th October 1915. Son of Samand Singh, of Thatan, Tarn Taran, Amritsar, Punjab. Panel 6


BHUJA SINGH, Sepoy, 4609. 15th Ludhiana Sikhs. 28th October 1914. Son of Pohlo, of Sauwal, Una, Hoshiapur, Punjab. Panel 18


BINDA SINGH, Naik, 4050. 15th Ludhiana Sikhs. 19th March 1915. Son of Fatte Singh, of Jhandeana Moga, Ferozepore, Punjab. Panel 18

BIR SINGH, Havildar, 345. 47th Sikhs. 21st December 1914. Son of Rulia Singh, of Issewal, Ludhiana, Punjab. Panel 37

BIR SINGH, Sepoy, 1177. 47th Sikhs. 27th October 1914. Son of Chanda Singh, of Sidnu Majara, Garhshankar, Hoshiarpur, Punjab. Panel 37

BIR SINGH, Sowar, 2330. 2nd Lancers (Gardner's Horse). 27th May 1916. Son of Mangal Singh, of Bir Kalan, Ludhiana, Punjab. Panel 3


Wounded Indian soldiers, according to one source in a French village and another in Ieper, 31 October 1914.

BISHN SINGH, Sepoy, 3558. 47th Sikhs 35th Sikhs. 23rd October 1915. Son of Jwala Singh, of Moduchanga, Ajnala, Amritsar, Punjab. Panel 37


BISHN SINGH, Havildar, 3466. 15th Ludhiana Sikhs. 6th November 1914. Son of Kan Singh, of Naiwala, Barnala, Patiala, Punjab. Panel 18


BISHN SINGH, Sepoy, 2260. 35th Sikhs attd. 47th Sikhs. 28th July 1915. Son of Prem Singh, of Kahan Singh Wala, Moga, Ferozepore, Punjab. Panel 30

BISHN SINGH, Sepoy, 2154. 47th Sikhs. 11th November 1914. Son of Arjun Singh, of Silo, Batala, Gurdaspur, Punjab. Panel 37

BISHN SINGH, Sepoy, 1543. 47th Sikhs. 28th October 1914. Son of Khem Singh, of Kabhar, Ludhiana, Punjab. Panel 37

BISHN SINGH, Naik, 1000. 47th Sikhs. 12th March 1915. Son of Arjun Singh, of Silo, Batala, Gurdaspur, Punjab. Panel 37

BISHN SINGH, Sepoy, 690. 15th Ludhiana Sikhs. 5th August 1915. Son of Mahan Singh, of Kaki Jagraon, Ludhiana, Punjab. Panel 18

BISHN SINGH, Sepoy, 1777. 34th Sikh Pioneers. 19th December 1914. Son of Natha Singh, of Lohgarh, Sirhind, Patiala, Punjab. Panel 29 and 30

BUDH RAM, Sepoy, 3167. 1st Bn. 6th Jat Light Infantry. 17th November 1914. Son of Antu, of Chandwas, Dadri, Jind, Punjab. Panel 13

BUDH SINGH, Bugler, 2263. 34th Sikh Pioneers. 11th March 1915. Son of Budh Singh, of Bhakhrewali, Gujrat, Punjab. Panel 29 and 30

BUDH SINGH, Sowar, 3570. 7th Hariana Lancers. 14th July 1916. Son of Harnam Singh, of Rannian, Ludhiana, Punjab. Panel 4

BUDHA SINGH, Sepoy, 1863. 34th Sikh Pioneers. 23rd November 1914. Son of Bishn Singh, of Lahore, Punjab. Panel 29 and 30


BUR SINGH, Sepoy, 3021. 34th Sikh Pioneers. 26th October 1914. Son of Maya Singh, of Tanda, Gujrat, Punjab. Panel 29 and 30


BUTA SINGH, Sepoy, 3062. 34th Sikh Pioneers. 23rd November 1914. Son of Gurditt Singh, of Bazurgwal, Kharian, Gujrat, Punjab. Panel 29 and 30


BUTA SINGH, Sepoy, 2798. 34th Sikh Pioneers. 23rd November 1914. Of Bazurgwal, Kharian, Gujrat, Punjab. Panel 29 and 30

CHAGRU SINGH, Sapper, 7751. 3rd Sappers and Miners. 29th December 1914. Son of Musunia Singh, of Alipur Khalsa, Malerkotla, Punjab. Panel 9

CHAMAL SINGH, Lance Naik, 3425. 3rd Sappers and Miners. 29th October 1914. Son of Basant Singh, of Rangian, Rupar, Ambala, Punjab. Panel 9
CHAMBA SINGH, Sepoy, 3065. 34th Sikh Pioneers. 7th December 1914. Son of Bur Singh, of Kalra, Shahpur, Punjab. Panel 29 and 30

CHANAN SINGH, Sepoy, 364. 15th Ludhiana Sikhs. 28th October 1914. Son of Sewa Sing, of Bhaina Birgandi, Ludhiana, Punjab. Panel 18

CHANAN SINGH, Sepoy, 3574. 35th Sikhs attd. 47th Sikhs. 11th March 1915. Son of Ala Singh, of Jeond, Barnala, Patiala, Punjab. Panel 30


CHANAN SINGH, Daffadar, 2842. 36th Jacob's Horse. 20th November 1916. Son of Sher Singh, of Sidhuwan, Jagraon, Ludhiana, Punjab. Panel 5


CHANAN SINGH, Sepoy, 1727. 87th Punjabis. 26th April 1915. Son of Gopal Singh, of Goga Kheri, Kharar, Ambala, Punjab. Panel 11 and 12

CHANAN SINGH, Sepoy, 703. 15th Ludhiana Sikhs. 12th March 1915. Son of Bakhshi Singh, of Dhamot, Patiala, Punjab. Panel 18

CHANAN SINGH, Sepoy, 32331. 58th Vaughan's Rifles (Frontier Force). 23rd November 1914. Son of Tawahir Singh, of Raiowal, Hoshiarpur, Punjab. Panel 23 to 25

CHANDA SINGH, Havildar, 856. 33rd Punjabis. 25th September 1915. Son of Hira Singh, of Roorka, Ludhiana, Punjab. Panel 28 and 29

CHANDA SINGH, Sowar, 3029. 38th King George's Own Central India Horse attd. Lahore General Hospital. 5th July 1917. Son of Wazir Singh, of Kheri, Karnal, Punjab. Panel 8

CHANDA SINGH, Sepoy, 1519. 34th Sikh Pioneers. 23rd November 1914. Son of Mahtab Singh, of Bazurgwal, Kharian, Gujrat, Punjab. Panel 29 and 30

CHANDA SINGH, Havildar, 1446. 89th Punjabis. 11th November 1915. Son of Bhola Singh, of Khiwabara, Patiala, Punjab. Panel 12

CHANNAN SINGH, Sepoy, 1566. 47th Sikhs. 21st December 1914. Son of Kharak Singh, of Harian, Samrala, Ludhiana, Punjab. Panel 37
CHANAN SINGH, Sepoy, 2929. 34th Sikh Pioneers. 23rd November 1914. Son of Prem Singh, of Dhaban, Khangah Dogran, Sheikhupura, Punjab. Panel 29 and 30


CHATTAR SINGH, Sepoy, 4362. 1st Bn. 23rd Sikh Pioneers attd 1st Bn. 34th Sikh Pioneers. 11th March 1915. Son of Nand Singh, of Gajan Singh Wala, Chunian, Lahore, Punjab. Panel 27

CHUHAR SINGH, Jemadar, 47th Sikhs. 12th March 1915. Son of Khushal Singh, of Laudu, Patiala, Punjab. Panel 37


CHUNRA SINGH, Havildar, 425. 47th Sikhs. 28th October 1914. Son of Kaka Singh, of Bugarh, Dhanaula, Nabha, Punjab. Panel 37

CHUR SINGH, Sowar, 55. 20th Deccan Horse. 21st December 1914. Son of Jamiayat Singh, of Leed, Ludhiana, Punjab. Panel 7


DALIP SINGH, Sepoy, 73. 59th Scinde Rifles (Frontier Force). 11th March 1915. Son of Buta Singh, of Tharoo, Tarn Taran, Amritzar, Punjab. Panel 25

DALIP SINGH, Sepoy, 842. 1st Bn. 41st Dogras. 10th March 1915. Son of Debi Singh, of Rori Kori, Dehra, Kangra, Punjab. Panel 34

DALIP SINGH, Sepoy, 1707. 47th Sikhs. 27th October 1914. Son of Arjun Singh, of Bhittewal, Gurdaspur, Punjab. Panel 37


DALIP SINGH, Naik, 4089. 45th Rattray's Sikhs attd. 15th Ludhiana Sikhs. 17th March 1915. Son of Atar Singh, of Jhanpur, Kharar, Ambala, Punjab. Panel 37

DALIPA, Sepoy, 250. 41st Dogras. 10th February 1915. Son of Dayala, of Nangal Jarialan, Una, Hoshiarpur, Punjab. Panel 34
DANGAL SINGH, Sowar, 1439. 20th Deccan Horse. 12th March 1918. Son of Bholar Singh, of Karni, Sonepat, Rhotak, Punjab. Panel 7

DARBAN SINGH, Labourer, 1686. Indian Labour Corps. 11th April 1918. Panel 39 to 41

DARBARA SINGH, Sepoy, 3581. 35th Sikhs attd. 47th Sikhs. 3rd May 1915. Son of Man Singh, of Khase Pandoke, Moga, Ferozepore, Punjab. Panel 30


DASAUNDHA SINGH, Sowar, 3068. 38th King George's Own Central India Horse. 8th December 1917. Son of Suhel Singh, of Thatti Khara, Tarn Taran, Amritsar, Punjab. Panel 8

DASAUNDHA SINGH, Sowar, 1429. 16th Indian Cavalry attd. 29th Lancers (Deccan Horse). 14th June 1917. Son of Sundar Singh, of Pajjodeota, Hoshiarpur, Punjab. Panel 6

DAULAT SINGH, Sepoy, 2796. 34th Sikh Pioneers. 3rd December 1914. Of Kot-Pindi Dass, Sharakpur, Sheikhpura, Punjab. Panel 29 and 30

DAYA SINGH, Havildar, 2088. 1st Bn. 6th Jat Light Infantry. 23rd November 1914. Son of Ramjas, of Barani, Jhajjar, Rohtak, Punjab. Panel 13

DAYAL SINGH, Sepoy, 2781. 34th Sikh Pioneers. 23rd November 1914. Son of Nand Singh, of Raja Harpal, Siaikot, Punjab. Panel 29 and 30

DAYAL SINGH, Drive, 18370. Royal Horse and Field Artillery, Indian Army. 27th August 1918. Panel 1 and 2

DAYAL SINGH, Sepoy, 2371. 34th Sikh Pioneers. 19th December 1914. Son of Ram Singh, of Khori, Kharian, Gujrat, Punjab. Panel 29 and 30

DEBI SINGH, Sepoy, 1659. 10th Jats. 3rd March 1915. Son of Chhailu, of Kharkar, Rohtak, Punjab. Panel 16

DEVI DITTA, Follower, 85. 69th Punjabis. 2nd September 1915. Son of Rura, of Jhika Ladhana, Nawashahr, Jullundur, Punjab. Panel 10

DEVI SINGH, Sepoy, 4166. 29th Punjabis. 10th March 1916. Son of Kapur, of Jagial, Pathankot, Gurdaspur, Punjab. Panel 28

DEVI SINGH, Sepoy, 4855. 59th Scinde Rifles (Frontier Force). 11th November 1914. Son of Kharku, of Haroat, Palampur, Kangra, Punjab. Panel 25
DEWA SINGH, Sepoy, 253. 47th Sikhs. 28th October 1914. Son of Chanda Singh, of Raipur, Sialkot, Punjab. Panel 37
DEWA SINGH, Sepoy, 2469. 35th Sikhs attd. 47th Sikhs. 22nd August 1915. Son of Hakam Singh, of Dhoda, Pasrur, Sialkot, Punjab. Panel 30
DEWA SINGH, Naik, 2165. 34th Sikh Pioneers. 23rd November 1914. Son of Kala Singh, of Ramgarh, Khangah Dogran, Sheikhupura, Punjab. Panel 29 and 30
DHAN SINGH, Bearer, 1686. Army Hospital Corps. 20th January 1915. Panel 42
DHAN SINGH, Labourer, 853. Indian Labour Corps. 15th May 1918. Panel 39 to 41
DHANA SINGH, Driver, 6442. "B" Ammunition Col. Royal Horse and Field Artillery, Indian Army. 27th October 1914. Panel 1 and 2
DHANA SINGH, Sepoy, 3822. 58th Vaughan's Rifles (Frontier Force). 24th November 1914. Son of Mehar Singh, of Saidowal, Phillaur, Jullundur, Punjab. Panel 23 to 25
DHARM SINGH, Sepoy, 820. 15th Ludhiana Sikhs. 2nd November 1914. Son of Bhagwan Singh, of Mudki, Ferozepore, Punjab. Panel 18
DHAYAN SINGH, Sepoy, 1485. 41st Dogras. 1st June 1915. Son of Musaddi, of Kardoli, Hamirpur, Kangra, Punjab. Panel 34
DHIRA SINGH, Sowar, 1104. 20th Deccan Horse. 21st December 1914. Son of Nek Singh, of Solkhi, Rupar, Ambala, Punjab. Panel 7
DIDAR SINGH, Lance Daffadar, 1106. 20th Deccan Horse. 14th July 1916. Son of Gurdayal Singh, of Akhat Garh, Kharar, Ambala, Punjab. Panel 7
DIWAN SINGH, Gunner, 39816. Royal Horse and Field Artillery, Indian Army. 3rd March 1920. Son of Tuinyan, of Nagura, Kaithal, Karnal, Punjab. Panel 1 and 2
DIWAN SINGH, Lance Naik, 4696. 15th Ludhiana Sikhs. 8th November 1914. Son of Tek Singh, of Deal, Garhshankar, Hoshiarpur, Punjab. Panel 18
DIWAN SINGH, Driver, P/19483. Royal Horse and Field Artillery, Indian Army. 8th June 1918. Panel 1 and 2
DIWAN SINGH, Sepoy, 1249. 34th Sikh Pioneers. 11th March 1915. Panel 29 and 30

DIWAN SINGH, Sepoy, 1425. 69th Punjabis. 25th September 1915. Son of Mangal Singh, of Ladapura, Gurdaspur, Punjab. Panel 10

DIWAN SINGH, Sepoy, 477. 15th Ludhiana Sikhs. 14th December 1914. Son of Uttam Singh, of Chak Narial, Garhshankar, Hoshiarpur, Punjab. Panel 18

DIWAN SINGH, Sepoy, 3134. 58th Vaughan's Rifles (Frontier Force). 23rd November 1914. Son of Khushal Singh, of Kusrurpur, Jullundur, Punjab. Panel 23 to 25

DIWAN SINGH, Sepoy, 1470. 55th Coke's Rifles (Frontier Force) attd. 57th Wilde's Rifles (Frontier Force). 2nd April 1915. Son of Lohna Singh, of Mandi Bari, Sangrur, Jind, Punjab. Panel 23

DULA SINGH, Lance Daffadar, 260. 12th Indian Cavalry attd. Lucknow Casualty Clearing Station. 14th March 1918. Son of Mara, of Jandauli, Garhshankar, Hoshiarpur, Punjab. Panel 6

FAKIR SINGH, Driver, 807. No. 2 Mountain Battery. Royal Garrison Artillery, Indian Army. 10th November 1914. Son of Ruldu, of Guna, Gujranwala, Punjab. Panel 2

FAKIR SINGH, Sepoy, 3910. 107th Indian Pioneers. 10th March 1915. Son of Basakha, of Pheri Chechi, Gurdaspur, Punjab. Panel 11

FAKIRA SINGH, Driver, Royal Horse and Field Artillery, Indian Army. 11th November 1914. Panel 1 and 2

FATEH SINGH, Sepoy, 1854. 34th Sikh Pioneers. 26th October 1914. Son of Kahan Singh, of Khokhar, Patiala, Punjab. Panel 29 and 30


FATEH SINGH, Lance Naik, 4764. 15th Ludhiana Sikhs. 28th October 1914. Son of Khazan Singh, of Tung, Sangrur, Jind, Punjab. Panel 18

FAUJA SINGH, Sepoy, 1753. 47th Sikhs. 12th March 1915. Son of Lehna Singh, of Isarke, Khangah Dogran, Sheikhpura, Punjab. Panel 37
GAJADHAN SINGH, Labourer, 2088. Indian Labour Corps. 29th May 1917. Panel 39 to 41

GAJAN SINGH, Sepoy, 1173. 82nd Punjabis attd. 58th Vaughan's Rifles (Frontier Force). 25th September 1915. Panel 11

GAJAN SINGH, Subadar, 15th Ludhiana Sikhs. 12th March 1915. Son of Bir Singh, of Sehaura, Patiala, Punjab. Panel 18


GAMAR SINGH, Labourer, 1723. Indian Labour Corps. 12th May 1918. Panel 39 to 41

GANDA SINGH, Havildar, 2200. 54th Sikhs (Frontier Force) attd. 58th Vaughan's Rifles (Frontier Force). 25th September 1915. Son of Thakur Singh, of Salabat Pura, Dhanaula, Nabha, Punjab. Panel 22

GANDA SINGH, Sepoy, 1451. 33rd Punjabis. 25th September 1915. Son of Gurmukh Singh, of Sultan Khaire, Batala, Gurdaspur, Punjab. Panel 28 and 29

GANDA SINGH, Sepoy, 4666. 32nd Sikh Pioneers attd. 1st Bn. 34th Sikh Pioneers. 11th February 1915. Son of Maya Singh, of Tanda, Gujrat, Punjab. Panel 28

GANGA SINGH, Sowar, 2438. 10th Duke of Cambridge's Own Lancers (Hodson's Horse) attd. 9th Hodson's Horse. 2nd August 1916. Son of Nand Singh, of Chamba Kalan, Tarn Taran, Amritsar, Punjab. Panel 6

GANGA SINGH, Sepoy, 2383. 34th Sikh Pioneers. 25th October 1914. Of Lidhar, Lahore, Punjab. Panel 29 and 30

GANGA SINGH, Sepoy, 656. 47th Sikhs. 21st December 1914. Son of Bhup Singh, of Gharuan, Sirhind, Patiala, Punjab. Panel 37

GANGA SINGH, Driver, 14349. Royal Horse and Field Artillery, Indian Army. 28th November 1919. Panel 1 and 2


GHUMANDA SINGH, Sepoy, 3319. 54th Sikhs (Frontier Force) attd. 58th Vaughan's Rifles (Frontier Force). 9th May 1915. Son of Bahal Singh, of Nalgal Mansa, Patiala, Punjab. Panel 22

GIRDHARA SINGH, Sepoy, 3210. 47th Sikhs. 23rd October 1915. Son of Sundar Singh, of Deroli Choti, Jullundur, Punjab. Panel 14

GODHA SINGH, Sepoy, 3895. 58th Vaughan's Rifles (Frontier Force). 23rd November 1914. Son of Nihal Singh, of Maraj, Moga, Ferozepore, Punjab. Panel 23 to 25
GOKAL SINGH, Havildar, 4263. 15th Ludhiana Sikhs. 12th March 1915. Son of Moti Singh, of Majra Gahshankar, Hoshiarpur, Punjab. Panel 18

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LACHHMAN SINGH, Sepoy, 2404. 47th Sikhs. 22nd June 1915. Son of Sundar Singh, of Sandhu, Shakargarh, Gurdaspur, Punjab. Panel 37

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MAGH SINGH, Sowar, 1235. Sardar Risala Jodhpur Lancers. 21st December 1916. Son of Ranjit Singh, of Chao, Nagaur, Jodhpur, Rajputana. Panel 8 and 9

MAGHAR SINGH, Sepoy, 2697. 34th Sikh Pioneers. 23rd November 1914. Son of Dewa Singh, of Kalaur, Sirhind, Patiala, Punjab. Panel 29 and 30

MAGHAR SINGH, Sepoy, 1309. 12th (Kelat-i-Ghilzie Regt) Indian Pioneers attd. 34th Sikh Pioneers. 2nd February 1915. Son of Rudr Singh, of Nangal Dalipu, Jullundur, Punjab. Panel 17 and 18

MAGHAR SINGH, Sepoy, 1715. 12th (Kelat-i-Ghilzie Regt) Indian Pioneers attd. 34th Sikh Pioneers. 4th April 1915. Son of Nanu Singh, of Tanda, Gujrat, Punjab. Panel 17 and 18

MAGHI SINGH, Sepoy, 2605. 34th Sikh Pioneers. 23rd November 1914. Panel 29 and 30

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MAHABIR SINGH, Sepoy, 3458. 1st Bn. 9th Bhopal Infantry. 23rd November 1914. Son of Brij Pal Singh, of Chandu Charhwar, Dalmau, Rae Bareli, United Provinces. Panel 38

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MAKHAN SINGH, Sowar, 991. Alwar Lancers. 8th February 1916. Son of Raghunath Singh, of Chandu Charhwar, Jullundur, Punjab. Panel 8

MAKHAN SINGH, Sowar, 1589. Sardar Risala Jodhpur Lancers. 24th April 1917. Son of Mul Singh, of Sardad, Phalodi, Jodhpur, Rajputana. Panel 8 and 9

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MAL SINGH, Jemadar, 32nd Sikh Pioneers attd. 34th Sikh Pioneers. Died in India. 25th September 1915. Panel 28


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MANGAL SINGH, Sepoy, 2413. 47th Sikhs. 27th October 1914. Son of Narayan Singh, of Majewal Majara, Garhshan Kar, Hoshiarpur, Punjab. Panel 37


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MANGAL SINGH, Sepoy, 2331. 47th Sikhs. 27th October 1914. Son of Joti Singh, of Durgi, Rupar, Ambala, Punjab. Panel 37

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MASTAN SINGH, Sepoy, 3741. 35th Sikhs attd. 47th Sikhs. 5th March 1915. Son of Harnam Singh, of Rajgarh, Dhanaula, Nabha, Punjab. Panel 30

MASTAN SINGH, Havildar, 4072. 15th Ludhiana Sikhs. 10th December 1914. Son of Sundar Singh, of Chhoti Hiron, Patiala, Punjab. Panel 18

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MATHURA SINGH, Sepoy, 3629. 9th Bhopal Infantry. 6th June 1919. Panel 38


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MEHR SINGH, Sepoy, 3199. 36th Jacob's Horse. 11th April 1917. Son of Kaka Singh, of Dakha, Ludhiana, Punjab. Panel 5

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MEHR SINGH, Sepoy, 1671. 47th Sikhs. 21st December 1914. Son of Daman Singh, of Sera, Bhawanigarh, Patiala, Punjab. Panel 37

MEHR SINGH, Sowar, 3396. 19th Lancers (Fane's Horse). 10th June 1917. Son of Hari Singh, of Bholu, Ajnala, Amritsar, Punjab. Panel 7
MEWA SINGH, Sowar, 2498. 38th King George's Own Central India Horse. 25th August 1917. Son of Ram Singh, of Bopa Rai, Jagraon, Ludhiana, Punjab. Panel 8

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MEWA SINGH, Lance Daffadar, 2902. 20th Deccan Horse and 33rd Queen Victoria's Own Light Cavalry. 21st December 1914. Son of Dayal Singh, of Sai Kalan, Ludhiana, Punjab. Panel 7


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MITHA SINGH, Sepoy, 3918. 14th King George's Own Ferozepore Sikhs. 15th April 1915. Son of Nihal Singh, of Durrani Kurram, Kohat, N.W. Frontier. Panel 18

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MODHA SINGH, Daffadar, 1217. Sardar Risala Jodhpur Lancers. 28th July 1917. Son of Shanwat Singh, of Babaro, Jaitaran, Jodhpur, Rajputana. Panel 8 and 9

MODHA SINGH, Sepoy, 1737. 58th Vaughan's Rifles (Frontier Force). 23rd November 1914. Son of Tara Singh, of Rantian, Moga, Ferozepore, Punjab. Panel 23 to 25


MOHAN SINGH, Sepoy, 4432. 107th Indian Pioneers. 2nd March 1915. Son of Prem Singh, of Tanda, Gujrat, Punjab. Panel 11

MOHAN SINGH, Lance Naik, 2704. 58th Vaughan's Rifles (Frontier Force). 2nd November 1914. Son of Sadh, of Jangal, Hamirpur, Kangra, Punjab. Panel 23 to 25

MOHAN SINGH, Rifleman, 343. 123rd Outram's Rifles. 3rd March 1916. Son of Karn Singh, of Inderpura, Jhunjhunu, Jaipur, Rajputana. Panel 14

MOHAN SINGH, Daffadar, 2780. 19th Lancers (Fane's Horse). 8th July 1917. Son of Hira Singh, of Mahi, Ludhiana, Punjab. Panel 7


MOHAN SINGH, Sepoy, 69. 15th Ludhiana Sikhs. 18th February 1915. Son of Nanak Singh, of Jasowal, Ludhiana, Punjab. Panel 18

MOHAR SINGH, Sepoy, 3831. 58th Vaughan's Rifles (Frontier Force). 9th May 1915. Son of Lakha, of Hatli, Chamba, Punjab. Panel 23 to 25

MOTA SINGH, Sepoy, 2982. 34th Sikh Pioneers. 23rd November 1914. Son of Jwala Singh, of Amarkot, Khangah Dogran, Sheikhupura, Punjab. Panel 29 and 30

MOTA SINGH, Sepoy, 1718. 34th Sikh Pioneers. 23rd November 1914. Son of Hari Singh, of Kahuta, Rawalpindi, Punjab. Panel 29 and 30

MOTHI SINGH, Sowar, 1268. 26th King George's Own Light Cavalry attd. 4th Indian Cavalry. 2nd March 1915. Son of Nihal Singh, of Rasulpur, of Bulandshahr, United Provinces. Panel 2

MOTI SINGH, Sowar, 2709. 34th Prince Albert Victor's Own Poona Horse. 2nd December 1914. Son of Pirthi Singh, of Ratarobas, Shergar, Jodhpur, Rajputana. Panel 3 and 4

MUKHAR SINGH, Sowar, 3291. 29th Lancers (Deccan Horse). 31st August 1917. Son of Jas Ram, of Kakatha, Hapur, Meerut, United Provinces. Panel 7 and 8

MUKHTIAR SINGH, Sowar, 2173. 13th Duke of Connaught's Own Lancers (Watson's Horse) attd. 19th Lancers (Fane's Horse). 1st December 1917. Son of Pritam Singh, of Sanoora, Jasmergarh, Kathua, Kashmir. Panel 6

MUKHTIYAR SINGH, Sowar, 3259. 29th Lancers (Deccan Horse). 8th January 1918. Son of Gopal Singh, of Rori, Ghaziabad, Meerut, United Provinces. Panel 7 and 8

MUKHTIYAR SINGH, Sowar, 3082. 29th Lancers (Deccan Horse). 3rd January 1918. Son of Fateh Singh, of Rasulpur, Hapur, Meerut, United Provinces. Panel 7 and 8

MUL SINGH, Sowar, 1053. Sardar Risala Jodhpur Lancers. 16th November 1917. Son of Pem Singh, of Sonei, Pali, Jodhpur, Rajputana. Panel 8 and 9

MUL SINGH, Sowar, 897. Alwar Lancers. 2nd August 1916. Son of Jai Singh, of Khera Shampur, Bansur, Alwar, Rajputana. Panel 8

MULTAN SINGH, Sowar, 2753. 34th Prince Albert Victor's Own Poona Horse. 6th September 1915. Son of Lachhman Singh, of Tenna, Shergar, Jodhpur, Rajputana. Panel 3 and 4

MULTAN SINGH, Follower, 29th Lancers (Deccan Horse). 28th September 1915. Of Mianpur, Rupar, Ambala, Punjab. Panel 7 and 8
MUNDAR SINGH, Sepoy, 2593. 34th Sikh Pioneers. 23rd November 1914. Son of Bur Singh, of Khangah Dogran, Sheikhpura, Punjab. Panel 29 and 30

MUNDAR SINGH, Havildar, 1715. 34th Sikh Pioneers. 26th November 1914. Son of Gurditt Singh, of Samra, Batala, Gurdaspur, Punjab. Panel 29 and 30

MUNSHA SINGH, Sepoy, 3954. 29th Punjabis attd. 15th Ludhiana Sikhs. 4th June 1915. Son of Pakhar Singh, of Sirhind, Patiala, Punjab. Panel 28

MUNSHA SINGH, Lance Daffadar, 146. 20th Deccan Horse. 21st December 1914. Son of Gopal Singh, of Pamal, Ludhiana, Punjab. Panel 7

MURAR SINGH, Sowar, 2766. 2nd Lancers (Gardner's Horse). 21st December 1917. Son of Sher Singh, of Nahri Singh, Sonepat, Rohtak, Punjab. Panel 3

NAGAR SINGH, Lance Naik, 1566. 12th (Ket-i-Ghilzie Regt) Indian Pioneers attd. 34th Sikh Pioneers. 11th February 1915. Son of Punjab Singh, of Qilasura Singh, Gujrat, Punjab. Panel 17 and 18


NAGINA SINGH, Lance Naik, 1984. 34th Sikh Pioneers. 23rd November 1914. Son of Nika Singh of Padiab, Sirhind, Patiala, Punjab. Panel 29 and 30

NAGINA SINGH, Sepoy, 1215. 33rd Punjabis. 25th September 1915. Son of Sewa Singh, of Masanian, Jullundur, Punjab. Panel 28 and 29

NAGINDAR SINGH, Sowar, 3322. 9th Hodson's Horse. 30th November 1917. Son of Gurditt Singh, of Panian, Haripur, Hazara, N.W. Frontier. Panel 6 and 7

NAHAR SINGH, Daffadar, 991. Sardar Risala Jodhpur Lancers. 20th July 1915. Of Roicho, Siwana, Jodhpur, Rajputana. Panel 8 and 9

NAHAR SINGH, Sowar, 2577. 32nd Lancers attd. 34th Prince Albert Victor's Own Poona Horse. 10th July 1915. Son of Risal Singh, of Mirzapur, Mandawar, Alwar, Rajputana. Panel 3

NAHAR SINGH, Sowar, 2686. 29th Lancers (Deccan Horse). 21st March 1918. Son of Khem Singh, of Burhana, Bulandshahr, United Provinces. Panel 7 and 8

NANAK, Sepoy, 664. 74th Punjabis. 9th May 1915. Son of Rodda, of Makomanjara, Garhshankar, Hoshiarpur, Punjab. Panel 10

NANAK SINGH, Sepoy, 4659. 27th Punjabis. 12th October 1915. Son of Wazir Singh, of Rewat, Rawalpindi, Punjab. Panel 27 and 28

NANAK SINGH, Sapper, 3606. 3rd Sappers and Miners. 29th October 1914. Son of Chur Singh, of Bur Majra, Rupar, Ambala, Punjab. Panel 9

NAND SINGH, Lance Daffadar, 928. 20th Deccan Horse. 21st December 1914. Son of Basawa Singh, of Fatehgarh, Zira, Ferozepore, Punjab. Panel 7


NAND SINGH, Sepoy, 3589. 1st Bn. 9th Bhopal Infantry. 20th December 1914. Son of Uttam Singh, of Thende, Hoshiarpur, Punjab. Panel 38

NANDA, Sepoy, 3165. 1st Bn. 6th Jat Light Infantry. 20th November 1914. Son of Gangu, of Mukhand, Narwana, Patiala, Punjab. Panel 13

NANDRAN PUN, Rifleman, 2552. 2nd Bn. 2nd King Edward's Own Gurkha Rifles (The Sirmoor Rifles). 2nd November 1914. Son of Gopli Pun, of Kunpani, Palpa, Parvat 4000, Nepal. Panel 18 to 20

NANTA SINGH, Sepoy, 1803. 69th Punjabis. 25th September 1915. Son of Kehar Singh, of Sukurlanpur, Kharar, Ambala, Punjab. Panel 10

NANU SINGH, Sowar, 3727. 34th Prince Albert Victor's Own Poona Horse. 9th July 1918. Son of Jai Singh, of Madam, Didwana, Jodhpur, Rajputana. Panel 3 and 4

NARAIN SINGH, Lance Naik, 2879. 34th Sikh Pioneers. 12th February 1915. Panel 29 and 30

NARAIN SINGH, Sepoy, 1922. 33rd Punjabis. 25th September 1915. Son of Hira Singh, of Pame, Ludhiana, Punjab. Panel 28 and 29

NARAIN SINGH, Sepoy, 4205. 15th Ludhiana Sikhs. 16th March 1915. Son of Atar Singh, of Amroowala, Patiala, Punjab. Panel 18

NARAIN SINGH, Sepoy, 2205. 33rd Punjabis. 25th September 1915. Son of Atar Singh, of Marar, Batala, Gurdaspur, Punjab. Panel 28 and 29


NARANJAN SINGH, Sepoy, 2889. 1st Bn. 9th Bhopal Infantry. 20th December 1914. Son of Partab Singh, of Gujarwal, Ludhiana, Punjab. Panel 38
NARATA SINGH, Lance Naik, 3359. 1st Bn. 9th Bhopal Infantry. 23rd November 1914. Son of Ghandila, of Kalibarb, Kharar, Ambala, Punjab. Panel 38

NARAYAN SINGH, Sowar, 3306. 34th Prince Albert Victor's Own Poona Horse. 1st December 1914. Son of Kesar Singh, of Gotdi, Parbatsar, Jodhpur, Rajputana. Panel 3 and 4

NARAYAN SINGH, Sepoy, 3388. 58th Vaughan's Rifles (Frontier Force). 9th May 1915. Son of Ram Ditta, of Kote, Hamirpur, Kangra, Punjab. Panel 23 to 25

NARAYAN SINGH, Sepoy, 3785. 58th Vaughan's Rifles (Frontier Force). 30th November 1914. Son of partab Singh, of Mahalpur, Garhshankar, Hoshiarpur, Punjab. Panel 23 to 25

NASIB SINGH, Sepoy, 3440. 58th Vaughan's Rifles (Frontier Force). 20th November 1914. Son of Aunkar Singh, of Bara, Samba, Jammu, Kashmir. Panel 23 to 25

NATHA SINGH, Sepoy, 3109. 54th Sikhs (Frontier Force) attd. 58th Vaughan's Rifles (Frontier Force). 25th September 1915. Son of Kala Singh, of Saidhon Moga, Ferozepore, Punjab. Panel 22

NATHA SINGH, Sepoy, 4099. 27th Punjabis. 30th September 1915. Son of Jwala Singh, of Kalabala, Batala, Gurdaspur, Punjab. Panel 27 and 28

NATHA SINGH, Sepoy, 504. 69th Punjabis. 25th September 1915. Son of Kharak Singh, of Kahma, Nawashahr, Jullundur, Punjab. Panel 10

NATHA SINGH, Sepoy, 2719. 34th Sikh Pioneers. 23rd November 1914. Son of Massa Singh, of Randhawe, Jullundur, Punjab. Panel 29 and 30

NATHA SINGH, Sepoy, 2075. 47th Sikhs. 21st December 1914. Son of Pala Singh, of Tara Nangal, Ajnala, Amritsar, Punjab. Panel 37

NATHA SINGH, Sowar, 2784. 35th Scinde Horse. 24th July 1915. Son of Khaira, of Birdana, Fatehabad, Hissar, Punjab. Panel 4

NATHA SINGH, Havildar, 4517. 45th Rattray's Sikhs attd. 15th Ludhiana Sikhs. 2nd August 1915. Son of Sant Singh, of Shahpur, Batala, Gurdaspur, Punjab. Panel 37

NATHA SINGH I, Subadar, 34th Sikh Pioneers. 23rd November 1914. Son of Matab Singh, of Dhidwal, Chakwal, Jhelum, Punjab. Panel 29 and 30

NAURANG SINGH, Sepoy, 2350. 47th Sikhs. 29th September 1915. Son of Lal Singh, of Wasawa Kot, Shakargarh, Gurdaspur, Punjab. Panel 37

NIDHAN SINGH, Lance Naik, 1872. 34th Sikh Pioneers. 23rd November 1914. Son of Hira Singh, of Bhaini Mahraj, Dhanaula, Nabha, Punjab. Panel 29 and 30
NIDHAN SINGH, Sowar, 2854. 38th King George's Own Central India Horse. 26th April 1918. Son of Mastan Singh, of Changli, Dhuri, Patiala, Punjab. Panel 8

NIDHAN SINGH, Sowar, 3036. 7th Hariana Lancers. 14th July 1916. Son of Sarmukh Singh, of Mehmansingh Wala, Ludhiana, Punjab. Panel 4


NIKA SINGH, Sepoy, 3527. 32nd Sikh Pioneers attd. 1st Bn. 34th Sikh Pioneers. 19th December 1914. Son of Atar Singh, of Taipi, Ludhiana, Punjab. Panel 28

NIKA SINGH, Sepoy, 4251. 32nd Sikh Pioneers attd. 1st Bn. 34th Sikh Pioneers. 19th December 1914. Son of Sant Singh, of Dharampura, Khangah Dogram, Sheikilupura, Punjab. Panel 28

NIKKA SINGH, Sepoy, 761. 15th Ludhiana Sikhs. 16th December 1914. Son of Uttam Singh, of Jhorar, Jagraon, Ludhiana, Punjab. Panel 18

NIKKA SINGH, Sepoy, 824. 15th Ludhiana Sikhs. 29th November 1914. Son of Mastan Singh, of Datewas, Hissar, Punjab. Panel 18

NIKKA SINGH, Sepoy, 3313. 54th Sikhs (Frontier Force) attd. 58th Vaughan's Rifles (Frontier Force). 25th September 1915. Son of Bhola Singh, of Nangal, Dhuri, Patiala, Punjab. Panel 22


PAIP SINGH, Rifleman, 2375. 125th Napier's Rifles. 14th May 1915. Son of Ralan Singh, of Motlas, Ramgarh, Jaipur, Rajputana. Panel 14

PAIP SINGH, Lance Daffadar, 2767. 34th Prince Albert Victor's Own Poona Horse. 17th March 1916. Son of Bachan Singh, of Bakhatpura, Parbatsar, Jodhpur, Rajputana. Panel 3 and 4

PAIP SINGH, Rifleman, 2774. 125th Napier's Rifles. 20th May 1915. Son of Guman Singh, of Dasna, Didwana, Jodhpur, Rajputana. Panel 14

PAKHAR SINGH, Havildar, 323. 47th Sikhs. 21st December 1914. Son of Ran Singh, of Rurka, Ludhiana, Punjab. Panel 37


PAKHAR SINGH, Lance Naik, 3475. 3rd Sappers and Miners. 29th October 1914. Son of Sada Singh, of Raj Garh, Ludhiana, Punjab. Panel 9

PAL SINGH, Naik, 1414. 47th Sikhs. 12th June 1915. Son of Natha Singh, of Makowal Ajnala, Amritsar, Punjab. Panel 37
PAL SINGH, Sowar, 3150. 38th King George's Own Central India Horse. 8th May 1918. Son of Santu Singh, of Butala, Amritsar, Punjab. Panel 8

PAL SINGH, Sepoy, 4939. 45th Rattray's Sikhs attd. 15th Ludhiana Sikhs. 19th November 1914. Son of Prem Singh, of Seeowal, Zafarwal, Sialkot, Punjab. Panel 37


PALA SINGH, Lance Daffadar, 2628. 37th Lancers (Baluch Horse) attd. 36th Jacob’s Horse. 29th March 1915. Son of Sarmukh Singh, of Dalowal, Hoshiarpur, Punjab. Panel 7


PARTAB SINGH, Sepoy, 62. 29th Punjabis. 26th April 1915. Son of Madho, of Bhawata, Dehra, Kangra, Punjab. Panel 28

PARTAB SINGH, Sepoy, 404. 47th Sikhs. 21st December 1914. Son of Maghar Singh, of Dadian, Amritsar, Punjab. Panel 37


PARTAB SINGH, Sowar, 2713. 34th Prince Albert Victor's Own Poona Horse. 7th September 1916. Son of Samuel Singh, of Hapo, Shergarh, Jodhpur, Rajputana. Panel 3 and 4

PARTAB SINGH, Sepoy, 3872. 58th Vaughan's Rifles (Frontier Force). 9th May 1915. Son of Sham Singh, of Damodar, Moga, Ferozepore, Punjab. Panel 23 to 25

PARTAP SINGH, Sepoy, 2118. 1st Bn. 41st Dogras formerly 37th Dogras. 9th May 1915. Son of Sohan Singh, of Taloli, Kathua, Kashmir. Panel 34

PARTAP SINGH, Sepoy, 3052. 34th Sikh Pioneers. 19th December 1914. Son of Ghanaiya Singh, of Bainchan, Bhunga, Kapurthala, Punjab. Panel 29 and 30

PHANGAN SINGH, Sepoy, 3131. 58th Vaughan's Rifles (Frontier Force). 10th January 1916. Son of Narayan Singh, of Ranke, Moga, Ferozepore, Punjab. Panel 23 to 25

PHUL SINGH, Sowar, 1648. Sardar Risala Jodhpur Lancers. 8th March 1918. Son of Durjan Singh, of Lalano, Parbatsar, Jodhpur, Rajputana. Panel 8 and 9

PHULA SINGH, Labourer, 934. Indian Labour Corps. 6th March 1918. Panel 39 to 41
PHULA SINGH, Sepoy, 1960. 47th Sikhs. 27th October 1914. Son of Rala Singh, of Kaler, Nawashahr, Jullundur, Punjab. Panel 37

PHULA SINGH, Sepoy, 4808. 32nd Sikh Pioneers attd. 1st Bn. 34th Sikh Pioneers. 1st May 1915. Son of Maya Singh, of Tanda, Gujrat, Punjab. Panel 28

PHULA SINGH, Driver, 578. No. 7 Mountain Bty. Royal Garrison Artillery, Indian Army. 5th March 1915. Panel 2


PIYARA SINGH, Sepoy, 543. 15th Ludhiana Sikhs. 20th January 1915. Son of Mahtab Singh, of Banawala, Patiala, Punjab. Panel 18

PRAG SINGH, Daffadar, 273. 20th Deccan Horse. 21st December 1914. Son of Durga Singh, of Datauli, Ghazipur, Fatehpur, United Provinces. Panel 7

PREM SINGH, Gunner, 12547. Royal Horse and Field Artillery, Indian Army. 14th October 1918. Son of Kala Singh, of Mehmudpur, Mawana, Meerut, United Provinces. Panel 1 and 2

PREM SINGH, Salutri (Asst.), 3377. 7th Hariana Lancers. 30th December 1917. Son of Bhola Singh, of Phulawal, Ludhiana, Punjab. Panel 4

PREM SINGH, Sepoy, 2343. 47th Sikhs. 23rd August 1915. Son of Sawan Singh, of Basian, Jagroan, Ludhiana, Punjab. Panel 37

PREM SINGH, Labourer, 1623. Indian Labour Corps. 16th January 1918. Panel 39 to 41

PREM SINGH, Labourer, 1075. Indian Labour Corps. 19th February 1918. Panel 39 to 41

PREM SINGH, Sepoy, 298. 27th Punjabis. 6th November 1915. Son of Barar, of Bhagol, Hamirpur, Kangra, Punjab. Panel 27 and 28
PREM SINGH, Labourer, 902. Indian Labour Corps. 19th November 1917. Panel 39 to 41
PREM SINGH, Sepoy, 2095. 82nd Punjabis attd. 58th Vaughan's Rifles (Frontier Force). 16th April 1915. Son of Khazan Singh of Dodar, Moga, Ferozepore, Punjab. Panel 11
PUNJAB SINGH, Sepoy, 4575. 31st Punjabis attd. 57th Wilde's Rifles (Frontier Force). 25th June 1915. Son of Lehna, of Salor, Kangra, Punjab. Panel 28
PUNJAB SINGH, Sepoy, 2597. 34th Sikh Pioneers. 23rd November 1914. Son of Pleshaure Singh, of Amarkot, Khangah Dogran, Sheikhupura, Punjab. Panel 29 and 30
PURAN SINGH, Sepoy, 438. 15th Ludhiana Sikhs. 9th October 1915. Son of Chiragh, of Chakpadan, Dasuya, Hoshiarpur, Punjab. Panel 22
RAGBHIR SINGH, Sowar, 2897. 29th Lancers (Deccan Horse). 22nd June 1916. Son of Bhup Singh, of Hrora, Hapur, Meerut, United Provinces. Panel 7 and 8
RAGHBIR SINGH, Sowar, 3182. 29th Lancers (Deccan Horse). 2nd February 1918. Son of Bhup Singh, of Tikri, Meerut, United Provinces. Panel 7 and 8


RAJA SINGH, Sepoy, 1240. 19th Punjabis attd. 15th Ludhiana Sikhs. 18th May 1915. Son of Isar Singh, of Gudalian, Hoshiarpur, Punjab. Panel 27

RAJA SINGH, Sepoy, 2959. 57th Wilde's Rifles (Frontier Force). 12th November 1914. Son of Hira Singh, of Jaidpur, Hoshiarpur, Punjab. Panel 23

RAJGOBIND SINGH, Sepoy, 2347. 89th Punjabis. 10th July 1915. Son of Mahabir Singh, of United Provinces. Panel 12

RALA SINGH, Lance Daffadar, 2290. 29th Lancers (Deccan Horse). 14th June 1917. Son of Kala Singh, of Charli, Patiala, Punjab. Panel 7 and 8

RALA SINGH, Naik, 11288. Royal Horse and Field Artillery, Indian Army. 12th September 1918. Son of Rala Singh, of Hulgarh, Una, Hoshiarpur, Punjab. Panel 1 and 2

RALLA SINGH, Havildar, 538. 69th Punjabis. 25th September 1915. Son of Gurmukh Singh, of Birampur, Hoshiarpur, Punjab. Panel 10

RAM SARUP SINGH, Sepoy, 4764. 113th Indian Infantry attd. 1st Bn. 6th Jat Light Infantry. 10th March 1915. Son of Umrao Singh, of Boadera, Mandbai, Bharatpur, Rajputana. Panel 12 and 13


RAM SINGH, Lance Naik, 4734. 15th Ludhiana Sikhs. 12th November 1914. Son of Badhawa Singh, of Jodh, Ludhiana, Punjab. Panel 18


RAM SINGH, Sepoy, 3499. 1st Bn. 6th Jat Light Infantry. 23rd November 1914. Son of Kundan, of Rukhi, Gohana, Rohtak, Punjab. Panel 13


RAM SINGH, Bugler, 3147. 1st Bn. 6th Jat Light Infantry. 23rd November 1914. Son of Surjan, of Pakasma, Rohtak, Punjab. Panel 13

RAM SINGH, Sepoy, 2784. 34th Sikh Pioneers. 13th March 1915. Son of Gulab Singh, of Jagraon, Ludhiana, Punjab. Panel 29 and 30

RAM SINGH, Subadar, 34th Sikh Pioneers. 23rd November 1914. Son of Nihal Singh, of Dhariwal, Batala, Gurdaspur, Punjab. Panel 29 and 30

RAM SINGH, Sowar, 2374. 36th Jacob's Horse. 16th April 1916. Son of Rur Singh, of Hassowal, Jagraon, Ludhiana, Punjab. Panel 5


RAM SINGH, Labourer, 2223. 77th Kumaon Coy. Indian Labour Corps. 13th March 1918. Panel 39 to 41

RAM SINGH, Havildar, 1675. 91st Punjabis (Light Inf) attd. 41st Dogras. 9th May 1915. Son of Puran, of Alampur, Palampur, Kangra, Punjab. Panel 12

RAM SINGH, Labourer, 1503. Indian Labour Corps. 30th July 1918. Panel 39 to 41

RAM SINGH, Sepoy, 1312. 1st Bn. 41st Dogras. 15th November 1914. Son of Mahant, of Khanor, Chamba, Punjab. Panel 34

RAM SINGH, Sepoy, 605. 15th Ludhiana Sikhs. 20th December 1914. Son of Maghar Singh, of Rashin, Ludhiana, Punjab. Panel 18


RAM SINGH, Lance Naik, 1630. 47th Sikhs. 21st December 1914. Son of Sobha Singh, of Harion Chhoti, Samrala, Ludhiana, Punjab. Panel 37

RAM SINGH, Sapper, 2759. 3rd Sappers and Miners. 9th May 1915. Son of Khusal Singh, of Pindari, Nakodar, Jullundur, Punjab. Panel 9


RANDHIR SINGH, Sepoy, 1100. 15th Ludhiana Sikhs. 18th May 1915. Son of Sobha Singh, of Batte, Kharar, Ambala, Punjab. Panel 18

RANDHIR SINGH, Sowar, 2986. 29th Lancers (Deccan Horse). 29th January 1917. Son of Ghisu Singh, of Gagrah, Hoshiarpur, Punjab. Panel 7 and 8

RANDHIR SINGH, Naik, 3276. 1st Bn. 9th Bhopal Infantry. 23rd November 1914. Son of Ram-din Singh, of Baisonki Khuji, Patti, Partabgarh, United Provinces. Panel 38
RANJA SINGH, Sepoy, 3556. 57th Wilde's Rifles (Frontier Force). 17th November 1914. Son of Bagga Singh, of Mari Kamlok, Lahore, Punjab. Panel 23

RATAN SINGH, Follower, 15th Ludhiana Sikhs. 17th February 1915. Panel 18

RATAN SINGH, Sowar, 8341. 20th Deccan Horse. 21st December 1914. Son of Megh Pal Singh, of Datauli, Ghazipur, Fatehpur, United Provinces. Panel 7

RATAN SINGH, Sowar, 3432. 9th Hodson's Horse. 24th December 1916. Son of Gulzar Singh, of Gran Kalan Badhar Singh Wala, Amloh Nabha, Punjab. Panel 6 and 7

RISAL SINGH, Sowar, 2702. 29th Lancers (Deccan Horse). 21st April 1918. Son of Narmu Singh, of Raispur, Ghaziabad, Meerut, United Provinces. Panel 7 and 8

RUGHA SINGH, Sepoy, 3337. 1st Bn. 6th Jat Light Infantry. 23rd November 1914. Son of Harnam, of Dhani Isar, Fatehabad, Hissar, Punjab. Panel 13


RUR SINGH, Sepoy, 263. 41st Dogras. 18th December 1914. Son of Suba, of Gondpur Banehra, Una, Hoshiarpur, Punjab. Panel 34

RUR SINGH, Daffadar, 1635. 6th King Edward's Own Cavalry. 15th September 1915. Son of Bhup Singh, of Raipur, Ludhiana, Punjab. Panel 4

RUR SINGH, Sapper, 2441. 1st King George's Own Sappers and Miners. 27th September 1915. Son of Sundar Singh, of Gure, Jagraon, Ludhiana, Punjab. Panel 9

RUR SINGH, Sepoy, 3550. 107th Indian Pioneers. 23rd November 1914. Son of Takur Singh, of Bhatnura, Jullundur, Punjab. Panel 11

RUR SINGH, Sepoy, 4231. 59th Scinde Rifles (Frontier Force). 26th October 1914. Son of Kesar Singh, of Rure Ki, Dhanaula, Nabha, Punjab. Panel 25

SADA SINGH, Sepoy, 816. 15th Ludhiana Sikhs. 11th November 1914. Son of Rala Singh, of Sanehwal Chhoti, Ludhiana, Punjab. Panel 18

SADA SINGH, Sepoy, 2277. 87th Punjabis. 26th April 1915. Son of Gujar Singh, of Phaguwala, Patiala, Punjab. Panel 11 and 12

SADHU SINGH, Sepoy, 3012. 34th Sikh Pioneers. 23rd November 1914. Son of Budha Singh, of Ramgarh, Khangah Dogran, Sheikhupura, Punjab. Panel 29 and 30

SADHU SINGH, Sepoy, 3061. 34th Sikh Pioneers. 26th October 1914. Son of Pohu Singh, of Mallian, Amritsar, Punjab. Panel 29 and 30
SADHU SINGH, Sepoy, 854. 19th Punjabis attd. 15th Ludhiana Sikhs. 12th June 1915. Son of Shera, of Mehli, Nawashahr, Jullundur, Punjab. Panel 27

SADHU SINGH, Sepoy, 2521. 34th Sikh Pioneers. 4th November 1914. Son of Nihal Singh, of Dhaban Kalan, Khangah, Dogran, Sheikhpura, Punjab. Panel 29 and 30

SADHU SINGH, Sepoy, 2391. 34th Sikh Pioneers. 23rd November 1914. Son of Tara Singh, of Usman, Tarn Taran, Amritsar, Punjab. Panel 29 and 30

SADHU SINGH, Sepoy, 2863. 30th Lancers (Gordon's Horse). 21st December 1914. Son of Misri Singh, of Magror, Rupar, Ambala, Punjab. Panel 8

SAHIB SINGH, Sepoy, 64. 59th Scinde Rifles (Frontier Force). 11th March 1915. Son of Kharku, of Gugulara, Nurpur, Kangra, Punjab. Panel 25


SANT SINGH, Sepoy, 2815. 34th Sikh Pioneers. 23rd November 1914. Son of Ala Singh, of Dharampura, Khangah Dogran, Sheikhpura, Punjab. Panel 29 and 30

SANT SINGH, Lance Naik, 3063. 34th Sikh Pioneers. 29th May 1915. Son of Ram Singh, of Kalra, Shahpur, Punjab. Panel 29 and 30

SANT SINGH, Follower, 121st Indian Pioneers attd. 107th Indian Pioneers. 24th May 1915. Son of Atar Singh, of Mushakabad, Samrala, Ludhiana, Punjab. Panel 13


SANT SINGH, Sepoy, 2193. 34th Sikh Pioneers. 19th December 1914. Son of Nika Singh, of Amarkot, Khangah Dogran, Sheikhpura, Punjab. Panel 29 and 30

SANT SINGH, Sowar, 2524. 29th Lancers (Deccan Horse). 26th June 1917. Son of Syam Singh, of Junt, Ludhiana, Punjab. Panel 7 and 8

SANT SINGH, Sepoy, 2647. 34th Sikh Pioneers. 19th December 1914. Panel 29 and 30

SANT SINGH, Havildar, 4459. 45th Rattray's Sikhs attd. 15th Ludhiana Sikhs. 16th December 1914. Son of Fatte Singh, of Chak Ramdas, Pasrur, Sialkot, Punjab. Panel 37

SANTA SINGH, Sepoy, 2216. 89th Punjabis. 17th June 1915. Son of Basawa Singh, of Jalal Usma, Amritsar, Punjab. Panel 12

SANTA SINGH, Naik, 4577. 15th Ludhiana Sikhs. 24th October 1914. Son of Bir Singh, of Jhaurar, Jagraon, Ludhiana, Punjab. Panel 18


SANTA SINGH, Sowar, 2258. 15th Ludhiana Sikhs. 24th October 1914. Son of Gajjan Singh, of Verka, Amritsar, Punjab. Panel 6

SANTA SINGH, Sepoy, 9. 27th Punjabis. 7th October 1915. Son of Sundar Singh, of Khironwali, Kapurthala, Punjab. Panel 27 and 28

SANTA SINGH, Sepoy, 2227. 33rd Punjabis. 25th September 1915. Son of Uttam Singh, of Chhimi Bathli, Amritsar, Punjab. Panel 28 and 29

SANTA SINGH, Sepoy, 3339. 54th Sikhs (Frontier Force) attd. 58th Vaughan's Rifles (Frontier Force). 9th May 1915. Son of Mota Singh, of Sadhur, Jagraon, Ludhiana, Punjab. Panel 22
SANTA SINGH, Sepoy, 3545. 54th Sikhs (Frontier Force) attd. 58th Vaughan's Rifles (Frontier Force). 25th September 1915. Son of Nadan Singh, of Maihna, Moga, Ferozepore. Punjab. Panel 22


SANTOKH SINGH, Sepoy, 981. 45th Rattray's Sikhs attd. 15th Ludhiana Sikhs. 16th March 1915. Son of Jiwan Singh, of Bewa Agwan Hari Chand Ka, Dhuri, Patiala, Punjab. Panel 37

SANTOKH SINGH, Daffadar, 3080. 21st Prince Albert Victor's Own Cavalry (F.F.) (Daly's Horse). 30th November 1917. Son of Danna Singh, of Butar, Moga, Ferozepore, Punjab. Panel 5

SAPURAN SINGH, Sepoy, 27101. 58th Vaughan's Rifles (Frontier Force). 23rd November 1914. Son of Saida Singh, of Nathawala, Jagraon, Ludhiana, Punjab. Panel 23 to 25

SARDAR SINGH, Lance Daffadar, 735. 20th Deccan Horse. 21st December 1914. Son of Partab Singh, of Latala, Ludhiana, Punjab. Panel 7

SARDARA SINGH, Sowar, 2555. 18th King George's Own Lancers. 28th August 1917. Son of Ratan Singh, of Baipur, Ludhiana, Punjab. Panel 6

SARDARA SINGH, Sapper, 2353. 1st King George's Own Sappers and Miners. 1st April 1915. Son of Bir Singh, of Thirike, Ludhiana, Punjab. Panel 9

SAUNDAGAR SINGH, Naik, 536. 1st Bn. 41st Dogras. 9th May 1915. Son of Madari, of Mandhiah, Hamirpur, Kangra, Punjab. Panel 34

SAUNDAGAR SINGH, Sepoy, 1615. 47th Sikhs. 24th December 1914. Son of Jiwan Singh, of Bhage, Batala, Gurdaspur, Punjab. Panel 37

SAUNDAGAR SINGH, Sepoy, 4660. 45th Rattray's Sikhs attd. 15th Ludhiana Sikhs. 12th March 1915. Son of Kapur Singh, of Dullam, Lahore, Punjab. Panel 37

SAUNDAGAR SINGH, Subedar, 47th Sikhs. 21st December 1914. Son of Gurditt Singh, of Lauhke, Tarn Taran, Amritsar, Punjab. Panel 37

SAWAN SINGH, Sepoy, 622. 15th Ludhiana Sikhs. 12th March 1915. Son of Atar Singh, of Kotra Manawala, Sangrur, Jind, Punjab. Panel 18

SAWAN SINGH, Sowar, 1168. 20th Deccan Horse. 21st December 1914. Son of Thamman Singh, of Bawani, Rupar, Ambala, Punjab. Panel 7

SAWAN SINGH, Havildar, 1791. 58th Vaughan's Rifles (Frontier Force). 2nd November 1914. Son of Hazara Singh, of Ranke, Moga, Ferozepore, Punjab. Panel 23 to 25

SAWAN SINGH, Jemadar, 3rd Sappers and Miners. 29th October 1914. Son of Asa Singh, of Raje Majra, Rupar, Ambala, Punjab. Panel 9

SEWA SINGH, Sepoy, 845. 15th Ludhiana Sikhs. 16th March 1915. Son of Bagga Singh, of Lelewala, Bhatinda, Patiala, Punjab. Panel 18

SEWA SINGH, Sowar, 3422. 38th King George's Own Central India Horse. 27th December 1917. Son of Mana Singh, of Bhindar, Amritsar, Punjab. Panel 8

SEWA SINGH, Sowar, 3568. 19th Lancers (Fane's Horse). 7th December 1914. Son of Dewa Singh, of Jamalpur, Amritsar, Punjab. Panel 7


SHAM SINGH, Jemadar, 36th Jacob's Horse. 9th January 1915. Son of Kala Singh, of Kaunke, Jagraon, Ludhiana, Punjab. Panel 5

SHAM SINGH, Lance Daffadar, 985. 20th Deccan Horse. 2nd May 1918. Son of Dewa Singh, of Kalaywal, Kharar, Ambala, Punjab. Panel 7

SHAM SINGH, Sepoy, 1891. 34th Sikh Pioneers. 23rd November 1914. Son of Sundar Singh, of Raipur, Ludhiana, Punjab. Panel 29 and 30

SHAM SINGH, Sepoy, 2146. 34th Sikh Pioneers. 23rd November 1914. Son of Ganesha Singh, of Kitma, Garhshankar, Hoshiarpur, Punjab. Panel 29 and 30

SHAMIR SINGH, Sepoy, 3508. 54th Sikhs (Frontier Force) attd. 58th Vaughan's Rifles (Frontier Force). 25th September 1915. Son of Thaker Singh, of Jandiala, Lahore, Punjab. Panel 22

SHER SINGH, Sowar, 2991. 38th King George's Own Central India Horse. 14th January 1917. Son of Sundar Singh, of Jhorar, Jagraon, Ludhiana, Punjab. Panel 8


SHER SINGH, Sowar, 3165. 36th Jacob's Horse. 30th April 1917. Son of Maghi Singh, of Ragba, Jagraon, Ludhiana, Punjab. Panel 5

SHER SINGH, Sepoy, 3515. 58th Vaughan's Rifles (Frontier Force). 2nd November 1914. Son of Ishar Singh, of Bhano Pindi, Daska, Sialkot, Punjab. Panel 23 to 25

SHER SINGH, Lance Daftadar, 974. 20th Deccan Horse. 21st December 1914. Son of Basawa Singh, of Kabadi, Ludhiana, Punjab. Panel 7

SHIBDIT SINGH, Sepoy, 4376. 59th Scinde Rifles (Frontier Force). 5th November 1914. Son of Gainda, of Tripal, Dehra, Kangra, Punjab. Panel 25

SHIBLAL SINGH, Daffadar, 1642. 29th Lancers (Deccan Horse). 17th August 1917. Son of Data Ram, of Morkhera, Rohtak, Punjab. Panel 7 and 8

SHIHCHARAN SINGH, Havildar, 1017. 69th Punjabis. 25th September 1915. Son of Jata Singh, of Mashgarh, Kharar, Ambala, Punjab. Panel 10

SHIV BAKSH SINGH, Ressaidar, 5th Indian Cavalry. 1st October 1917. Son of Shahzad Singh, of Kalunga, Rohtak, Punjab. Panel 4

SHIV SINGH, Naik, 2786. 91st Punjabis (Light Inf) attd. 41st Dogras. 12th June 1915. Son of Diwana, of Carh Jamula, Palampur, Kangra, Punjab. Panel 12

SHIV SINGH, Labourer, 124. Indian Labour Corps. 21st June 1918. Panel 39 to 41

SINGARA SINGH, Sepoy, 2834. 52nd Sikhs (Frontier Force) attd. 59th Scinde Rifles (Frontier Force). 23rd March 1915. Son of Kharak Singh, of Waran, Gujranwala, Punjab. Panel 21 and 22


SIRDAR, Driver, 1305. 9th. Mule Corps. 11th March 1915. Panel 39


SISRAM SINGH, Sowar, 2380. 29th Lancers (Deccan Horse). 14th January 1915. Son of Bhola Singh, of Rori, Hapur, Meerut, United Provinces. Panel 7 and 8
SOGAR SINGH, Sowar, 86. 20th Deccan Horse. 21st December 1914. Son of Amar Singh, of Safipur, Kharar, Ambala, Punjab. Panel 7

SOHAN, Driver, 61624. Royal Horse and Field Artillery, Indian Army. 7th September 1918. Son of Jag Ram, of Monka, Jind, Punjab. Panel 1 and 2


SOHAN SINGH, Sepoy, 3499. 54th Sikhs (Frontier Force) attd. 58th Vaughan's Rifles (Frontier Force). 25th September 1915. Son of Mahan Singh, of Bhindar, Moga, Ferozepore, Punjab. Panel 22

SOHAN SINGH, Sepoy, 4690. 107th Indian Pioneers. 24th November 1914. Son of Jamit Singh, of Galowal, Dasuya, Hoshiarpur, Punjab. Panel 11


SOHAN SINGH, Sepoy, 1371. 1st Bn. 41st Dogras. 21st December 1914. Son of Ram Singh, of Kulara, Nurpur, Kangra, Punjab. Panel 34

SOHAN SINGH, Sepoy, 1307. 1st Bn. 41st Dogras. 9th May 1915. Son of Suba, of Palauhra, Nurpur, Kangra, Punjab. Panel 34

SOHAN SINGH, Sepoy, 2171. 47th Sikhs. 27th November 1914. Son of Jwala Singh, of Dasaundasingh, Amritsar, Punjab. Panel 37


SOHAN SINGH, Sepoy, 4704. 14th King George's Own Ferozepore Sikhs attd. 15th Ludhiana Sikhs. 7th July 1915. Son of Natha Singh, of Patto Hira Singh, Moga, Ferozepore, Punjab. Panel 18
SUCHA SINGH, Sowar, 2751. 6th King Edward's Own Cavalry. 9th January 1915. Son of Partab, of Jagraon, Ludhiana, Punjab. Panel 4
SUCHA SINGH, Sepoy, 3069. 34th Sikh Pioneers. 21st August 1915. Panel 29 and 30
SUCHA SINGH, Sepoy, 3076. 54th Sikhs (Frontier Force) attd. 58th Vaughan's Rifles (Frontier Force). 25th September 1915. Son of Mehjab Singh, of Khalsian, Dhanaula, Nabha, Punjab. Panel 22
SUCHA SINGH, Sepoy, 1719. 47th Sikhs. 14th November 1914. Son of Anokh Singh, of Bariach, Arloh, Nabha, Punjab. Panel 37
SUDH SINGH, Sepoy, 3278. 107th Indian Pioneers. 25th May 1915. Son of Mewa Singh, of Pindidass, Sharakpur, Sheikhupura, Punjab. Panel 11
SULTAN SINGH, Sowar, 2715. 2nd Lancers (Gardner's Horse). 22nd January 1918. Son of Balwant Singh, of Berli, Rewari, Gurgaon, Punjab. Panel 3
SUNDAR SINGH, Sepoy, 4402. 36th Sikhs attd. 47th Sikhs. 16th October 1915. Son of Badhawa Singh, of Kot Todar Mal, Gurdaspur, Punjab. Panel 30
SUNDAR SINGH, Sepoy, 3754. 27th Punjabis. 21st October 1915. Son of Lehna Singh, of Jawande, Tarn Taran, Amritsar, Punjab. Panel 27 and 28
SUNDAR SINGH, Sepoy, 3256. 58th Vaughan's Rifles (Frontier Force). 23rd November 1914. Son of Mohar Singh, of Partabgarh, Bhawanigarh, Patiala, Punjab. Panel 23 to 25
SUNDAR SINGH, Sepoy, 2850. 91st Punjabis (Light Inf) attd. 41st Dogras. 12th June 1915. Son of Naurang Chand, of Killi, Palampur, Kangra, Punjab. Panel 12
SUNDAR SINGH, Sowar, 3228. 19th Lancers (Fane's Horse). 29th October 1916. Son of Behnu, of Narwana, Hamirpur, Kangra, Punjab. Panel 7
SUNDAR SINGH, Sepoy, 2763. 107th Indian Pioneers. 2nd November 1914. Son of Ram Singh, of Tanda, Gujrat, Punjab. Panel 11
SUNDAR SINGH, Sepoy, 4444. 15th Ludhiana Sikhs. 14th November 1914. Son of Harnam Singh, of Ghanaur, Malerkotla, Punjab. Panel 18
SUNDAR SINGH, Sepoy, 2252. 35th Sikhs attd. 47th Sikhs. 12th March 1915. Son of Sher Singh, of Adamke, Daska, Sialkot, Punjab. Panel 30

SUNDAR SINGH, Sepoy, 2183. 34th Sikh Pioneers. 23rd November 1914. Son of Chattar Singh, of Rhiya, Lahore, Punjab. Panel 29 and 30


SUNDAR SINGH, Sepoy, 2145. 47th Sikhs. 27th June 1915. Son of Gopal Singh, of Pumali, Ludhiana, Punjab. Panel 37

SUNDAR SINGH, Naik, 2083. 34th Sikh Pioneers. 23rd November 1914. Son of Mit Singh, of Gobindgarh, Khangah Dogran, Sheikhupura, Punjab. Panel 29 and 30

SUNDAR SINGH, Sepoy, 1963. 34th Sikh Pioneers. 23rd November 1914. Son of Sham Das, of Johal, Jullundur, Punjab. Panel 29 and 30

SUNDAR SINGH, Sepoy, 1268. 47th Sikhs. 12th March 1915. Son of Khanjan Singh, of Jhathe, Patiala, Punjab. Panel 37


SUNDAR SINGH, Sepoy, 2350. 34th Sikh Pioneers. 18th December 1914. Son of Sant Singh, of Gobindgarh, Khangah Dogran, Sheikhupura, Punjab. Panel 29 and 30


SURAIN SINGH, Sepoy, 2984. 34th Sikh Pioneers. 22nd June 1915. Son of Nand Singh, of Lung, Amritsar, Punjab. Panel 29 and 30

SURAIN SINGH, Sowar, 3024. 38th King George's Own Central India Horse. 1st December 1917. Son of Gulab Singh, of Chak No. 73, Lyallpur, Punjab. Panel 8

SURAIN SINGH, Lance Daffadar, 3176. 19th Lancers (Fane's Horse). 29th October 1916. Son of Hira Singh, of Buhala, Amritsar, Punjab. Panel 7

SURAIN SINGH, Sowar, 3842. 35th Scinde Horse attd. 36th Jacob's Horse. 6th January 1917. Son of Ala Singh of Manga, Amritsar, Punjab. Panel 4

SURAIN SINGH, Sepoy, 1 D S M, 1255. 19th Punjabis attd. 15th Ludhiana Sikhs. 19th May 1915. Son of Chet Singh, of Talwandi, Rya, Sialkot, Punjab. Panel 27


TARA SINGH, Sepoy, 3302. 58th Vaughan's Rifles (Frontier Force). 23rd November 1914. Son of Jassa Singh. Panel 23 to 25

TEJA SINGH, Sepoy, 462. 27th Punjabis. 9th October 1915. Son of Rur Singh, of Kukar, Shakargarh, Gurdaspur. Punjab. Panel 27 and 28


TEJA SINGH, Sepoy, 2663. 91st Punjabis (Light Inf) attd. 2nd Bn. 39th Garhwal Rifles. 10th March 1915. Panel 12

TEJA SINGH, Sowar, 2832. 9th Hodson's Horse. Died in India, on return from France and Flanders. 13th June 1915. Son of Nihal Singh, of Basar, Ajnala, Amritsar, Punjab. Panel 6 and 7

THAKUR SINGH, Naik, 2331. 35th Sikhs attd. 47th Sikhs. 2nd June 1915. Son of Indar Singh, of Bajjon, Nawashahr, Jullundur, Punjab. Panel 30

THAKUR SINGH, Sepoy, 4038. 107th Indian Pioneers. 10th March 1915. Son of Jamit Singh, of Sadh, Lahore, Punjab. Panel 11

THAKUR SINGH, Havildar, 911. 34th Sikh Pioneers. 23rd November 1914. Panel 29 and 30

THAKUR SINGH, Bugler, 2254. 34th Sikh Pioneers. 23rd November 1914. Panel 29 and 30
THAN SINGH, Sepoy, 3441. 1st Bn. 6th Jat Light Infantry. 9th December 1914. Son of Ram Das, of Mandaauthi, Jhajjar, Rohtak, Punjab. Panel 13

TILOK SINGH, Sepoy, 1295. 69th Punjabis. 25th September 1915. Son of Moti Singh, of Taprain, Rupar, Ambala, Punjab. Panel 10

TILOK SINGH, Sepoy, 2093. 69th Punjabis. 25th September 1915. Son of Atar Singh, of Atalgarh, Rupar, Ambala, Punjab. Panel 10

TOTA SINGH, Sepoy, 2421. 87th Punjabis. 26th April 1915. Son of Budh Singh, of Kassaiwara, Bhatinda, Patiala, Punjab. Panel 11 and 12

TOTA SINGH, Lance Naik, 2775. 34th Sikh Pioneers. 23rd November 1914. Son of Jawahir Singh, of Ramgarh, Khangah Dogran, Sheik-Chupura, Punjab. Panel 29 and 30

TULSA SINGH, Sepoy, 2943. 35th Sikhs attd. 47th Sikhs. 29th October 1915. Son of Khem Singh, of Kot Kalan, Jullundur, Punjab. Panel 30


UDHAM SINGH, Sepoy, 4605. 124th Duchess of Connaught's Own Baluchistan Infantry attd. 47th Sikhs. 4th November 1915. Son of Fatte Singh, of Nadolan, Garhshankar, Hoshiarpur, Punjab. Panel 14

UDHAM SINGH, Sepoy, 84. 15th Ludhiana Sikhs. 2nd November 1914. Son of Ganesha Singh, of Sarangwal, Garhshankar, Hoshiarpur, Punjab. Panel 18


UJAGAR SINGH, Sowar, 3078. 21st Prince Albert Victor's Own Cavalry (F.F.) (Daly's Horse). 30th November 1917. Son of Hira Singh, of Koinke, Lahore, Punjab. Panel 5

UJAGAR SINGH, Sepoy, 3582. 1st Bn. 9th Bhopal Infantry. 8th March 1917. Son of Dalel Singh, of Musafir Khana, Bhatinda, Patiala, Punjab. Panel 38

UJAGAR SINGH, Sepoy, 2707. 34th Sikh Pioneers. 23rd November 1914. Son of Wadhawa Singh, of Sangwai, Kasur, Lahore, Punjab. Panel 29 and 30

UJAGAR SINGH, Daffadar, 2399. 38th King George's Own Central India Horse. 31st August 1917. Son of Jwala Singh, of Dhotian, Tarn Taran, Amritsar, Punjab. Panel 8

UJAGAR SINGH, Sepoy, 2904. 34th Sikh Pioneers. 23rd November 1914. Panel 29 and 30

UJAJAR SINGH, Sowar, 2348. 39th King George's Own Central India Horse attd. 38th King George's Own Central India Horse. 4th December 1917. Son of Kala Singh, of Bhail, Tarn Taran, Amritsar, Punjab. Panel 8

UMAR SINGH, Driver, PA/19291. Royal Horse and Field Artillery, Indian Army. 12th December 1917. Son of Rangi Lal, of Majra, Rohtak, Punjab. Addenda Panel

USHNAK SINGH, Sepoy, 2369. 34th Sikh Pioneers. 26th October 1914. Son of Bela Singh, of Meissam, Gujrat, Punjab. Panel 29 and 30

UTAM SINGH, Sepoy, 2364. 89th Punjabis. 15th June 1915. Son of Rur Singh, of Kiampur, Ajnala, Amritsar, Punjab. Panel 12

UTAM SINGH, Sepoy, 2279. 89th Punjabis. 1st October 1915. Son of Ganga Singh, of Maiwind, Tarn Taran, Amritsar, Punjab. Panel 12

UTAM SINGH, Sepoy, 4513. 107th Indian Pioneers. 26th January 1916. Son of Sohan Singh, of Ayagribwala, Lahore, Punjab. Addenda Panel

UTTAM SINGH, Sepoy, 2092. 87th Punjabis. 26th April 1915. Son of Hira Singh, of Gharuarl, Sirhind, Patiala, Punjab. Panel 11 and 12


UTTAM SINGH, Sepoy, 4645. 27th Punjabis. 2nd October 1915. Son of Mala Singh, of Bhangalipur, Tarn Taran, Amritsar, Punjab. Panel 27 and 28

UTTAM SINGH, Sepoy, 1708. 47th Sikhs. 21st December 1914. Son of Sant Singh, of Balsuchandar, Amritsar, Punjab. Panel 37

VIR SINGH, Sowar, 3421. 38th King George's Own Central India Horse. 22nd November 1917. Son of Nihal Singh, of Bhindar, Amritsar, Punjab. Panel 8


WADHAWA SINGH, Sepoy, 1794. 34th Sikh Pioneers. 23rd November 1914. Son of Jwala Singh, of Chememom, Sialkot, Punjab. Panel 29 and 30
WADHAWA SINGH, Jemadar, 47th Sikhs. 20th December 1914. Son of Kahan Singh, of Baraich, Amloh, Nabha, Punjab. Panel 37

WADHAWA SINGH, Daffadar, 3106. 19th Lancers (Fane's Horse) attd Royal Artillery. 13th September 1918. Panel 7

WARIAM SINGH, Sowar, 2391. 2nd Lancers (Gardner's Horse). 1st December 1917. Son of Sarmukh Singh, of Kabhadi, Ludhiana, Punjab. Panel 3

WARYAM SINGH, Sepoy, 3435. 57th Wilde's Rifles (Frontier Force). 1st November 1914. Son of Punjab Singh, of Batala, Bhimber, Mirpur, Kashmir. Panel 23


WARYAM SINGH, Havildar, 2099. 35th Sikhs attd. 47th Sikhs. 30th June 1915. Son of Pala Singh, of Dhurlot, Ludhiana, Punjab. Panel 30

WARYAM SINGH, Sepoy, 3390. 35th Sikhs attd. 47th Sikhs. 18th March 1915. Son of Mangal Singh, of Sherporewala, Jagraon, Ludhiana, Punjab. Panel 30

WARYAM SINGH, Sepoy, 3337. 58th Vaughan's Rifles (Frontier Force). 14th November 1914. Son of Jawahir Singh, of Wassanki, Daska, Sialkot, Punjab. Panel 23 to 25

WARYAM SINGH, Sepoy, 1921. 33rd Punjabis. 25th September 1915. Son of Maluk Singh, of Chimme, Jagraon, Ludhiana, Punjab. Panel 28 and 29

WARYAM SINGH, Sepoy, 1237. 47th Sikhs. 21st December 1914. Son of Jaman Singh, of Chatte, Patiala, Punjab. Panel 37

WARYAM SINGH, Sowar, 1120. 20th Deccan Horse. 21st December 1914. Son of Kahan Singh, of Hassampur, Ludhiana, Punjab. Panel 7


WARYAM SINGH, Jemadar, 47th Sikhs. 27th October 1914. Son of Dal Singh, of Chaik, Phillaur, Jullundur, Punjab. Panel 37

WARYAM SINGH, Sepoy, 2031. 47th Sikhs. 11th March 1915. Son of Sher Singh, of Sikhabas, Sunam, Patiala, Punjab. Panel 37

WASAKHA SINGH, Sepoy, 2286. 47th Sikhs. 21st December 1914. Son of Atar Singh, of Tangre, Amritsar, Punjab. Panel 37

WASAWA SINGH, Subadar, 32nd Sikh Pioneers attd. 34th Sikh Pioneers. Died in India. 2nd June 1915. Panel 28

WASSAN SINGH, Sowar, 2469. 18th King George's Own Lancers. 23rd September 1916. Son of Buta Singh, of Pakha Pur, Tarn Taran, Amritsar, Punjab. Panel 6


WAZIR SINGH, Jemadar, 15th Ludhiana Sikhs. 4th October 1914. Son of Bhagwan Singh, of Laungowal, Sunam, Patiala, Punjab. Panel 18

ZALIM SINGH, Labourer, 542. Indian Labour Corps. 10th August 1917. Panel 39 to 41

ZORAWAR SINGH, Follower, 4891. Followers Central Depot. 22nd October 1919. Son of Samman Singh, of Sartholi, Shahjahanpur, United Provinces. Panel 42

NEUVILLE-SOUS-MONTREUIL INDIAN CEMETERY – Pas de Calais

Commonwealth War Dead 1914-1918


ORLEANS MAIN CEMETERY – Loiret Commonwealth War Dead 1914-1918

RAM SINGH, Sepoy, 701. 41st Dogras. 27th October 1914. II.B.14

PERNES BRITISH CEMETERY – Pas de Calais

Commonwealth War Dead 1914-1918

DARAS SINGH, Driver, 26800. 55th Div. Ammunition Col. Royal Horse and Field Artillery, Indian Army. 10th July 1918. Indian Plot. A. 7.
KUNDAN SINGH, Driver, 18704. 51st Div. Ammunition Col. Royal Horse and Field Artillery, Indian Army. 10th July 1918. Indian Plot. A. 8.

MAKHAM SINGH, Gunner, 33495. 55th Div. Ammunition Col. Royal Horse and Field Artillery, Indian Army. 11th July 1918. Indian Plot. A. 6.


PONT-DU-HEM MILITARY CEMETERY, LA GORGUE – Nord Commonwealth War Dead 1914-1918

LACHHMAN SINGH, Sepoy, 1623. 12th (Kelat-i-Ghilzie Regt) Indian Pioneers attd. 34th Sikh Pioneers. Died of wounds 25th September 1915. Indian Mem. 2.


QUATRE-VENTS MILITARY CEMETERY, ESTREE-CAUCHY - Pas de Calais Commonwealth War Dead 1914-1918

PITTAM SINGH, Gunner, 12865. 4th Div. Ammunition Col. Royal Horse and Field Artillery, Indian Army. 3rd April 1918. Son of Tej Singh, of Pempor, Tappal, Aligarh, Khair. II. C. 1.

RUE-DAVID MILITARY CEMETERY, FLEURBAIX – Pas de Calais Commonwealth War Dead 1914-1918


RUE-DU-BACQUEROT No.1 MILITARY CEMETERY, LAVENTIE – Pas de Calais
Commonwealth War Dead 1914-1918


BASANT SINGH, Sepoy, 1463. 69th Punjabis. 8th July 1915. Sikhs. C. 7.


ST. HILAIRE CEMETERY, FREVENT – Pas de Calais
Commonwealth War Dead 1914-1918


HARDIT SINGH, Sowar, 2944. 36th Jacob's Horse. 14th May 1916. Son of Gurbachan Singh, of Dhadari Khurd, Ludhiana. I. A. 5.


ST. OUEN COMMUNAL CEMETERY - Somme
Commonwealth War Dead 1914-1918

INDAR SINGH, Sowar, 2933. 36th Jacob's Horse. 11th March 1917. A. 1.

ST.RIQUIER BRITISH CEMETERY - Somme
Commonwealth War Dead 1914-1918


**ST. SEVER CEMETERY EXTENSION, ROUEN - Seine-Maritime**

**Commonwealth War Dead 1914-1918**


CHANNAN SINGH, Sepoy, 2807. 54th Sikhs (Frontier Force) attd. (Jubbulpore) Royal Horse and Field Artillery, Indian Army. 31st October 1918. P. VIII. D. 14.


ST. VAAST POST MILITARY CEMETERY, RICHEBOURG-L'AVOUE - Pas de Calais
Commonwealth War Dead 1914-1918


ST. VENANT COMMUNAL CEMETERY - Pas de Calais
Commonwealth War Dead 1914-1918


DAYA SINGH, Sowar, 2344. 4th Indian Cavalry. 22nd April 1915. Son of Chanda Singh, of Chimah, Ludhiana, Punjab. I. D. 1.


KEHAR SINGH, Naik, 4281. 27th Punjabis. 2nd December 1915. Son of Dewa Singh, of Ratoke, Amritsar Punjab. II. J. 9.


MAGAR SINGH, Sepoy, 4512. 107th Indian Pioneers. 11th March 1915. Son of Lachmi, of Shamka, Gujranwala, Punjab. I. J. 8.


RUR SINGH, Jemadar, 14th King George's Own Ferozepore Sikhs attd. 15th Ludhiana Sikhs. 29th April 1915. Husband of Harnam Kaur, of Ladda, Patiala State. I. E. 1.

SUNKEN ROAD CEMETERY, BOISLEUX-ST. MARC – Pas de Calais
Commonwealth War Dead 1914-1918


TINCOURT NEW BRITISH CEMETERY – Somme
Commonwealth War Dead 1914-1918

HIRA SINGH, Sowar, 1284. 20th Deccan Horse. 14th June 1917. Indian Plot. A. 1.
PEM SINGH, Sowar, 3192. 34th Prince Albert Victor's Own Poona Horse. 5th June 1917. Canadian Plot. B. 1.

UNICORN CEMETERY, VEND'HUILE - Aisne
Commonwealth War Dead 1914-1918

KIRPA SINGH, Lance Daffadar, 3436. 32nd Lancers. Killed in action 1st December 1917. Son of Mala Singh, of Kotti, Gurdarpur, Punjab. Indian Plot, North corner. 3.

VADENCOURT BRITISH CEMETERY, MAISSENY - Aisne
Commonwealth War Dead 1914-1918

MUNSHA SINGH, Lance Daffadar, 2878. 37th Lancers (Baluch Horse) attd. 36th Jacob's Horse. Killed in action 18th September 1917. Brother of Pakhar Singh, of Dallahaur, Paul Nabba, Punjab. III. C. 3.

VALENCIENNES (ST. ROCH) COMMUNAL CEMETERY - Nord
Commonwealth War Dead 1914-1918


VIEILLE-CHAPELLE NEW MILITARY CEMETERY, LACOUTURE - Pas de Calais
Commonwealth War Dead 1914-1918

BISHAN SINGH, Sepoy, 3516. 1st Bn. 9th Bhopal Infantry. 23rd November 1914. X. E. 1.

KARTAR SINGH, Sepoy, 3073. 34th Sikh Pioneers. 23rd November 1914. Son of Jiwan Singh, of Katuah, Shahabud, Kernal, Punjab. X. C. 3.

MANGAL SINGH, Sepoy, 1612. 34th Sikh Pioneers. 23rd November 1914. X. C. 2.

PALA SINGH, Sepoy, 805. 15th Ludhiana Sikhs. 2nd November 1914. X. E. 11.

RAM SINGH, Sepoy, 2806. 6th Jat Light Infantry. 23rd November 1914. Son of Jai Ram, of Chhota Ralwas, Burak, Hissar. X. C. 9.


SUNDAR SINGH, Jemadar, 34th Sikh Pioneers. Killed in action 23rd November 1914. X. D. 5.

VILLERET OLD CHURCHYARD - Aisne
Commonwealth War Dead 1914-1918

HARI SINGH, Lance Daffadar, 2233. 5th Indian Cavalry. 5th February 1918.
VILLERS-FAUCON COMMUNAL CEMETERY EXTENSION -
Somme
Commonwealth War Dead 1914-1918

SHANKAR SINGH, Sowar, 2327. 5th Indian Cavalry. Died of wounds 2nd December 1917. III. E. 7.

WARLUS CHURCHYARD - Somme
Commonwealth War Dead 1914-1918


Y FARM MILITARY CEMETERY, BOIS-GRENIER - Nord
Commonwealth War Dead 1914-1918


ZELOBES INDIAN CEMETERY, LACOUTURE - Pas de Calais
Commonwealth War Dead 1914-1918


Sikhs in the salient:
A Unique War Commemoration

Johan Meire

During the weekend of 2-4 April 1999, hundreds of Sikhs from Belgium, the Netherlands, France and Britain gathered in the Belgian town of Ypres (Ieper) to combine a celebration of the Vaisakhi and the 300th anniversary of the birth of the Khalsa, with a commemoration of the Indian soldiers who fell in the First World War in the former front zone around Ypres, the so-called Ypres Salient.

In this article I want to elaborate on how this event originated, and on how it bound together two very different groups. Beyond any doubt, it was one of the most remarkable commemorations of the First World War (1914-1918) that ever took place on the former battlefields. Moreover, it was unusual in the sense that Ypres has no Sikh community: why then celebrate Vaisakhi in this small town, while most Belgian Sikhs live at the other end of the country or in Brussels, where they have gurdwaras of their own?

Before tackling this question, let me first briefly describe the event itself. During the celebration of Vaisakhi in Ypres, part of the town’s mediaeval Cloth Hall – completely destroyed during the war and faithfully rebuilt afterwards – was furnished as a gurdwara and a langar. The celebrations included Akand Path, kirtan and the celebration of Vaisakhi proper. They started on Friday morning and came to an end on Sunday in the late afternoon. All these celebrations were open to Sikhs and non-Sikhs alike, and during the weekend many people from the Ypres region visited the temporary gurdwara, listened to kirtan and tried the food in the langar.

The usual proceedings of the celebrations of the Vaisakhi – albeit in an unusual place – were complemented by several memorial practices referring to the Sikh and Indian soldiers who fought in the Ypres Salient during the First World War. An exhibition on Sikhism and the role of the Sikhs in the war was mounted. On Saturday afternoon, there was a guided tour to some places where Sikh soldiers had fought and where they were buried. In the village of Hollebeke, close to Ypres, a little monument was unveiled that commemorated the first actions of Indian troops in the Great War.

In the temporary gurdwara, local and Sikh authorities made speeches and exchanged gifts. Finally, on Saturday and Sunday, special Last Post ceremonies were held, with many Sikhs attending and participating. The Last Post – the traditional (British) salute to the fallen warrior – is sounded every evening under the Menin Gate, a British memorial to the missing in Ypres, to commemorate all soldiers who fell around Ypres.

This ‘celebration of peace’, as it was called, was a joint organisation of European Sikh communities and the town of Ypres.
This mutual interest is rather surprising. For instance, not a single Sikh is living in Ypres. Moreover, the contribution of Sikh soldiers during the First World War in the Ypres Salient in 1914 and 1915 had disappeared completely from the social memory and even from the mere knowledge of the Sikhs living in (continental) Europe until about just a year before the commemoration.

As the Sikhs look at their history as consisting of an ongoing series of violent episodes, their short if bloody engagements in the First World War only appear to be relatively unimportant incidents. Conversely, the presence of Indian soldiers in the Ypres Salient was too short for the former Allies to commemorate their contributions or their war dead in a separate memorial. In the former war zone, but also in Britain, Indian soldiers are commemorated in cemeteries, on memorials and in remembrance ceremonies as belonging to the former British Empire. In Britain, Sikhs have regularly taken part in commemorations of the war, receiving war medals and so on.

However, the interest of European Sikhs in their ‘European’ war history in fact is very recent. In 1998 Sikhs were for the first time invited to lay a wreath at the National War Monument in Amsterdam, on World War Two Liberation Day in Holland. Shortly thereafter, a delegation of European Sikhs visited Ypres for the first time; this part of European and Sikh history was nearly completely unknown until then. Not much later, during a special Last Post under the Menin Gate in Ypres, specific attention was given to the Indian soldiers who fell in the Great War.

The president of the International Sikh Youth Federation, Bhupinder Singh Holland, could give a short speech there, and it was then that the idea of celebrating Vaisaki in Ypres originated. A fitting celebration of the 300th anniversary of the birth of the Khalsa would have to refer to accomplishments made in the past, and especially would have to honour the martyrs. As Sardar Bhupinder Singh told me, when he reflected on how to do this, he found that martyrdom in the 20th century was abound for the Sikhs, but that only both World Wars were typical of Europe. This made Ypres a more and more fitting choice.

Moreover, to celebrate Vaisakhi in a public non-Sikh space, ‘among outsiders’ (non-Sikhs), could be a way to make clear that Sikhs in Europe want to be acknowledged as being part of European societies. At first sight, it might look strange that Sikhs celebrate Vaisakhi in a small provincial town such as Ypres, but it was an appropriate choice. It brought to the fore both the (largely unknown) ‘European’ past and martyrdom of the Sikhs, and at the same time the recognition by outsiders (Belgians) could help to enhance the self-image of Sikhs in Europe.

On Armistice Day (11 November) 1998, a fairly large delegation of Sikhs from Belgium and Holland participated in the
‘poppy parade’, a yearly ceremonial walk from the centre of Ypres up to the Menin Gate. The Sikhs carried a large banner (“Sikh-Community Gurdwara-Sangat-Sahib St.Truiden Belgium”) and a large wreath (“Sikhs commemorate all the fallen”), that was laid down under the Menin Gate. This shows that the Sikhs wanted to include the First World War in their own history, and that they wanted be recognised, as Sikhs, for their participation in the war.

This, however, were merely Sikhs taking part in a fully ‘western’ commemoration ritual. A mutual fusion of ‘Sikh’ and ‘western’ commemorations occurred on the Vaisakhi weekend in the beginning of April 1999. To my knowledge, this ‘merging’ was a totally unique event.

Such a joint celebration or commemoration does not originate without efforts. Nor is it just a consequence of what happened in the past. As I already noted, most Belgians and Sikhs were virtually unaware of the Indian/Sikh contribution to the First World War. It was rather the other way around: the pending organisation of the ‘celebration of peace’ was a good occasion to do some historical research (e.g. in order to organise an exhibition on the Sikhs, or to locate the exact place of the first action of Indian soldiers, which would be the spot on which a monument would be erected during the weekend).

In this way, what happened in the past provided the commemoration with a certain structuring frame: it showed where a monument would be appropriate, or where graves of Indian soldiers could be found. What happened in the past gave authority to the commemorations. However, it was not the past itself, or the historical research, that made these places or commemorations ‘memorable’. This could only be done by actual memory practices during the weekend of the Vaisakhi in Ypres itself.

A joint celebration by Belgian and Sikhs not only requires a historical ground. It also requires that both groups have some things in common: things they consider as important to their own past, and thus to their own identity. It does not require that both groups have to lose their distinctive character; rather, they have to find some common ground. While ‘dissonant’, clashing memories of both groups were minimised, a common heritage was stressed. This heritage was: martyrdom.

During the First World War, the city of Ypres was totally destroyed. The symbol of this destruction was the mediaeval Cloth Hall, which was rebuilt afterwards. In this building, where the temporary gurdwara was set up, the In Flanders Fields Museum can be found: Ypres’ impressive war museum. At the entrance of the museum, which was also next to the entrance of the gurdwara, on a big stone the names of many ‘martyred cities’ are engraved, such as
Hiroshima, Dresden or Sarajevo. Ypres considers itself as a martyred town, a symbol of the destruction and suffering war brings about.

To honour the martyrs is a well-known aim of Vaisakhi, and during the celebration in Ypres, this aim was made quite clear to (non-Sikh) visitors, however without turning martyrdom and the present oppression in India into political issues. One of the Sikh speakers at the Vaisakhi said: “The Sikhs have done their prayer for victory and for martyrdom. They have got both. They have got victory and they have got martyrdom in Ypres.” As made clear by the exhibition on the Sikhs in the Great War, the erection of a monument to the Indian soldiers, and the guided tour in the former war zone, Ypres and the Sikhs had a heritage in common: “the common history we share, which is the destruction in war, the martyrdom in war”, like it was expressed by Piet Chielens, co-ordinator of the In Flanders Fields Museum.

Mutual memories were stressed; at the same time, some differences between Belgians and Sikhs that could create unease or could make a joint celebration difficult, were minimised or ‘forgotten’. During the war, soldiers often were not really loved by the local inhabitants of the front zone (such as Ypres), and the feelings of distrust were especially apparent towards the colonial troops, like Senegalese, Moroccans, Indians and Chinese. Girls and women were warned to keep away from them, and local inhabitants were very curious to find out which strange habits these exotic soldiers had.

For instance, the food and smoking habits of Indian soldiers (often just called ‘hindoos’) attracted much attention. Surely, there was friendly contact between Indian soldiers and local people, but like other non-European soldiers, Indian soldiers were often considered as wild and cruel warriors, and at the same time as childish, distrustful, curious, sneaky and unreliable. This distrust was, of course, not brought back into memory during the Vaisakhi in Ypres: in his speech, the governor of the province of West-Flanders (in which Ypres is situated) even claimed that openness and hospitality “have always been typical of our province”.

The Sikhs also had to get rid of a possibly awkward matter: while the Vaisakhi in Ypres was announced as ‘a celebration of peace’, the Sikhs are considered as a people with a strong martial tradition, and also are proud of their tradition of ‘warrior saints’. While the initiation in the Khalsa also implies a military duty and there should be no opposition between sanctity and military prowess, to non-Sikhs this could seem quite a contradiction.

For instance, the lesson Ypres wants to learn from its own war experience, is to avoid war at any cost. Therefore, during the celebration in Ypres, Sikh participants did not put stress on warrior values, but on martyrdom. Moreover, Sikh speakers made use of a very universalistic discourse: again and again they repeated that they
wanted to commemorate all Indian soldiers, Muslims and Hindus included. During the Vaisakhi in 1999, the war in Kosovo was raging: it is obvious that, within this context, and during ‘a celebration of peace’, an openly ‘ethnic’ discourse would be counter-productive.

Just like finding a historical ‘ground’ for the joint commemoration, the mutual attuning of memories was a precondition to it. Its essence, however, lay in joint memory practices.

During the reading of the Guru Granth Sahib, two coaches guided interested Sikhs and Belgians through the Ypres Salient; during this trip, a monument was unveiled in the village of Hollebeke. The simple ceremony included speeches by Belgian and British authorities (a.o. mayors from Indian origin) and an Indian veteran from World War Two. After that, punj piaras unveiled the monument, and the Sikhs present sang a jubilation song to honour God and the martyrs. Despite the heavy rain at this point, many Sikhs took photographs of the unveiled monument.

The small monument, made of the light yellow brick typical of this region, includes Punjabi, Hindi and Urdu texts from the Granth Sahib, the Gita (Hindu text) and the Koran. In Dutch and in English, it also mentions:

On this spot, on October 26, 1914, troops of the Indian Army were deployed in World War One for the first time, when they engaged in battle on the line Hollebeke – Wijtschate – Mesen.

This monument was inaugurated on April 3, 1999 by Punj Piaras to commemorate all soldiers of the Indian Army who died in Belgium between 1914 and 1918.

The monument thus commemorates a historical moment, all Indians fallen in Belgium in the Great War, and the inauguration of the monument itself.

The monument materially includes the Sikhs in the memory of the war in the Ypres Salient: it gives them a proper place of their own, rather than being defined as former citizens of the British Empire. Reversibly, the monument inscribes Ypres and Hollebeke, and the First World War, in the social memory of the European Sikhs. It is inaugurated by punj piaras, recognised by the Belgian authorities, and symbolically appropriated by the song at the end of the ceremony. Since 1999, a delegation of Sikhs visits the monument after participating in the yearly commemorations on Armistice Day (November 11) in Ypres.

The same song mentioned above also played a major, though unexpected role in the special Last Post ceremonies that were held under the Menin Gate in Ypres on Saturday and Sunday. Hundreds of people attended this ceremony, which included – as usual, on special occasions – the playing of the Last Post melody, the laying of wreaths, the recitation of Binyon’s poem ‘They shall not grow old’, and on minute of silence.
To the surprise of the local persons present, the Sikhs started singing their impressive tribute to God and the martyrs, strikingly resonating under the arch of the Menin Gate. On Sunday, this ceremony brought the celebration of Vaisakhi to an end; it was preceded by a Nagar Kirtan (including Nishan Sahib, and punj piaras reciting “Sat Naam Waheguru”, though without the Granth Sahib), leading from the gurdwara in the Cloth Hall up to the Menin Gate.

As can be seen, ‘western’ and ‘Sikh’ memorial practices existed side by side during these celebrations. But even more happened: they also mutually fused, and they created a memory not ‘of the Sikhs’ or ‘belonging to the Belgians’, but a blended, hybrid memory. For instance, the Cloth Hall, symbol of destruction in war, at the same time ‘became’ a gurdwara by the presence of Sikhs and their religious practices. In this way, and by the commemorations in Hollebeke and under the Menin Gate, the Vaisakhi, a religious celebration, also become a war commemoration. Because of this, the Vaisakhi in Ypres was very explicitly open to outsiders: in this way, non-Sikh onlookers also became participants. The unveiling of the monument, the Last Post and the speeches during Vaisakhi were done by both Belgians and Sikhs. The monument is as much Sikh (unveiled by punj piaras, commemoration of Indian fallen, Punjabi text) as it is western/Belgian (brick stone, standing in Hollebeke, Dutch and English texts).

This monuments interweaves Belgian and Sikh memories. Even though it was unveiled by Belgians and by Sikhs, and even though these Sikhs were coming from different countries and are living in a diaspora, the unveiling ceremony created a specific, local place which is ‘of Sikhs and Belgians together’. The same is true for the Last Post ceremony, which usually is a western ritual, but by adding the jubilation song, the emotional impact of the Last Post during the Vaisakhi weekend was changed and enhanced greatly – both for Belgians and for Sikhs.

What the Vaisakhi-weekend in Ypres did, was to bring together two very different groups, to create a new ‘community of memory’. Even though this community was based on events happening in the past, and even though the link between past and present was made tangible by the presence of the daughter and three grandchildren of hawaldar (sergeant) Badan Singh Mangat, veteran of 1914-1918, the bond between Belgians and Sikhs was actually created by the memory practices during the weekend itself. Piet Chielens, co-ordinator of the In Flanders Fields Museum, said it like this during Vaisakhi: “What we have done in the last three days is creating another tie, another knot, which cannot be undone.” The monument in Hollebeke, and the many gifts that were exchanged on the occasion, were the material expressions of the tie.
I would like to end this article by highlighting the importance of ‘being together’ in these kinds of complex commemorative events. Remembering the past is not just about ‘thinking of what happened in the past’. This commemoration only worked because Belgian and Sikh participants did things together, for instance by unveiling a monument together – in the pouring rain, as it happened!

It was extremely important that the gurdwara was open to everybody, and that Sikhs and non-Sikhs were treated in the same way. Belgians could visit the gurdwara, listen to kirtan, go to the langar, and even receive karah parshad. Even though this had nothing to do with the commemoration of the war as such, it was tremendously important.

Exchanging gifts and eating together are, in all cultures, most fundamental ways of relating to each other, and in this context it was not even clear who was ‘host’ and ‘guest’: these roles were interwoven during the celebration in Ypres. Only a whole atmosphere of commemorative and other acts, speeches and the material environment could make this complex commemoration and celebration a success: unique as it was, to the participants this commemoration was no longer ‘exotic’ but full of meaning.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT & NOTES

1 I wish to thank Sardar Bhupinder Singh Holland for generously providing me information on how this celebration originated.

2 A photograph of this monument can be found at the end of Bhupinder Singh Holland’s article ‘Battles of Ieper, Belgium (1914-1915)’ in SikhSpectrum.com, Issue No. 8, January 2003.
Work Well Done

Appreciation of Johan Meire’s work by the author.

On January 21, 2003 I attended a Ph.d thesis defense at Katholieke Universiteit Leuven (Belgium). I am grateful to Johan Meire for inviting me to attend his dissertation that deals with social memory of the First World War in Ieper, Belgium. The title of the doctoral thesis, which is written in Dutch is De tijd der traagheid: Een diachronisch-antropologische studie van de sociale herinnering aan de Eerste Wereldoorlog in de streek van Ieper or, Lingering Time: A diachronic-antropological study of the social memory of the First World War in the region of Ypres (Belgium).

The thesis is divided into seven chapters (545 pages) and details the pre-war period and history of the great war in which people representing 29 different nationalities were involved. He has also elaborated on the Theory of Social Memory, life during the war, memories and memorials, and rituals. The last chapter is dedicated to the Indian soldiers, especially Sikhs deployed in the Salient in 1914-15 and Sikhs who visited it again in 1999 to celebrate Vaisakh.

A reference to the Sikh involvement starts from page 480 and goes till page 502. Some of the issues dealt with include a brief history of the Sikhs and their religion, Sikh soldiers outside Ieper Salient, Sikhs in the Salient 1999 and the Vaisakhi 1999 celebrations by the European Sikh community. At that time a monument in the memory of Sikh soldiers who died in the war was unveiled in Hollebeke. It was refreshing to find a reference to this auspicious event.

Congratulating Johan Meire at the successful completion of his dissertation.

While going through the voluminous work one finds seven pictures:
. Indian soldiers practicing in the Flemish snow during the winter of 1914-15 (57th.wilde Rifles).
. The Royal Hall of Ieper town converted into Sikh Gurdwara (April 2, 1999).
. Unveiling of the Monument at Hollebeke on April 4, 1999.
. The monument at Hollebeke
. Nagar Kirtan (singing hymns) on the way to Menen Gate on Sunday April 4, 1999.
. Sikh gathering at the Menen Gate (April 4, 1999)

Chapter 7 offers two case studies of commemoration rituals in the Ypres Salient. The extremely simple, almost 'empty' Last Post is a daily ritual- a bugle melody sounded every evening under the Memen
Gate in Ypres. By studying the Last Post, this chapter sheds some light on the power and the weakness of ‘empty’ rituals in relation to one of the basis functions of commemoration, that is, making memories public. The second case study analyses the single, more complex commemoration in Ypres in which European Sikhs combined the memory of the First World War with a religious celebration.

The daily Last Post originated at the end of 1920s as a tribute to the British who had defended the town of Ypres. Because of the 55,000 names mentioned on the Menen Gate, it is first and foremost, a tribute to the dead. The Last Post is a unique ritual with a long history and the ceremony can be best understood as a practice: “it does nothing more than to make clear that there is a remembrance going on; the location under the Menen Gate however defines it as a tribute to the war dead.”

Many people attend the Last Post and some of them may have their own interpretations of the war. However, because of its “emptiness,” the ceremony can easily bridge those differences. For this reason the organization committee consciously refuses to change the ritual, for instance, to make it more like a ‘Peace Ritual.’

Emptiness means the extreme simplicity of the Last Post ritual in that it is very simple. There is no text and no clear symbolism in it. This emptiness makes it open for everyone who attends it: whatever your reasons to commemorate the war, the Last Post works: you can see it as a tribute to the dead, or as a comfort when you are facing all the names of the missing around you, or as a call for peace.

Since the ‘90s the heritage of the First World War around Ypres has more often been understood as a heritage of peace. For instance, as we know, Ypres calls itself a ‘town of peace’ and sometimes the Ypres Museum is called the Peace Museum. How could it be a ‘peace ritual’? One way would be for the organizers to say in the brochure “that it should be regarded as a call for peace”. They could also allow people to make speeches at the Last Post, which are an explicit political call for peace.

The organizers of the Last Post refuse to do so, however. They want to safeguard the ‘emptiness’ of the Last Post because only in that way will it appeal to everyone. If it is clearly a ‘peace ritual’, then to people who visit Ypres to honor their fallen forefathers it would be disappointing to know that the ritual speaks more about today (“we should have peace”) instead of speaking about the soldiers who lost their lives. As it is now, in its simplicity, it is a universal ritual.

The Last Post ceremony was also at the center stage at the commemoration by European Sikhs in Ypres on April 1999. Vaisakhi has religious significance and by including the Last Post with Vaisakhi celebrations, Sikhs added a religious flavour to it.
The Sikh history in the First World War was an almost forgotten past: both for the Sikhs themselves and for the Belgians. One of the remarkable things about the celebration in Ieper was that it revealed this forgotten past. And it did so in many ways: through historical research, an exhibition, and unveiling of the Hollebeke memorial. Distinguished Belgium leaders were presented with siropa (Robe of Honor) and Governor Brijne of Flanders honored a Muslim Mayor from U.K besides two members from the Sikh community. The living soldiers of World War II and the family of Havaldar Badan Singh (Gent, Belgium) were honoured. A beautiful plaque written in Dutch-English and Gurmukhi was presented to all participants.

It was not just Sikhs who participated but together with the people of Belgium actually shaped the memorable event. For instance, the Royal Hall of the Cloth Hall in Ieper (rebuilt as a symbol of the war) was turned into a gurdwara where all people met to pay respect for the fallen soldiers. Many Sikh soldiers died in Europe far away from their homes and families while holding firm to their faith, and serving people of a different culture with whom they had not much in common except love for humanity.
Armistice Day

The Armistice day (laying of arms on 11 November 1918) came after the loss of millions of lives since the war began in early August 1914, between the Allied forces on one side and the German forces on the other.

Armistice Day Treaty of World War I

Most of the First World War was a non-moving trench war, which seemed endless. However, in the spring of 1918, the German Army tried to overpower the Allied Forces on the Western Front, and indeed, for the first time in more than three years, the frontline moved significantly. But soon the German soldiers were exhausted, and in the summer of 1918, the Allied troops launched a counter-attack in Belgium and France. Everywhere, the Germans were driven back. The German army desintegrated and its soldiers were demoralised, notwithstanding the situation in Germany (food shortages, etc) which was very bad.

Following a mutiny by its sailors (November 3, 1918) and soldiers, the German government of Max von Baden asked President Woodrow Wilson of USA to negotiate for a ceasefire. Wilson had some difficulties persuading the French and the British. However, after Wilson agreed to accept changes concerning reparations, the Armistice was signed at Compiegne in France, on 11 November, 1918 (The real Peace Treaty was signed much later, on the 28 June 1919 in Versailles).

Meanwhile, the German government and Kaiser Wilhelm II abdicated on November 9th. Wilhelm fled to Holland, where he obtained asylum. On November 11, the Austrian Emperor Karl I also abdicated. In Germany, a republic was installed on November 9.

On November 11, the belgium Army had come close to the city of Gent, and the British had captured the city of Mons. In France the frontline, everywhere, was close to the belgium border and then went further south close to Metz. In any case, most of Belgium (including the cities of Antwerp, Brussels and Liege) were still occupied by the Germans on Armistice Day. The time and desperation for Armistice day had come.

In a forest near Compiègne (France), early in the morning of November 7, a train carrying Marshal Foch of France, his staff and British officers arrived; and another train arrived on a track close to it, with a delegation from the German government seeking an armistice.
For three days the two parties discussed the terms of an armistice until 05:05 hours on 11 November 1918. Matthias Erzberger, the leader of the German delegation, and one of the new German leaders, signed The Armistice document. Within 6 hours the war would be over. The Armistice was to take effect at 11 o'clock, on the 11th day, of the 11th month.

The conditions of the armistice were put down in thirty-four articles. They were tough and uncompromising. The German army would give up all the territory it had occupied and this would include Alsace and Lorraine (which were part of France before 1870, but became a part of Germany after that). Furthermore the Allies would occupy the west of Germany up to the left bank of the Rhine. Other articles accounted for their submarine and High Seas fleets, and the provision of reparations for France and Belgium.

On 11 November 1918, most of Belgium was still occupied by (fleeing) German troops. That is, only some cities and villages (like Bruges, Mons, etc.) had really been liberated by Belgium or British troops. But of course, on the November 11, people of Belgium celebrated the end of war, and that they were in fact free again. Even so, the military regime and the presence of soldiers did not really and suddenly end on November 11. In Belgium, November 11 is called Wapenstilstands dag (Armistice Day'), and not something like 'Freedom Day' or 'Liberation Day'.

I don't know if the Armistice was celebrated already in 1919 in Belgium (it was in Britain and France); I suppose so, but I am not sure. Certainly, it was celebrated on November 11 from then on.

On 11 November 1921, a belgium 'Unknown Soldier' (an unidentified body) was buried in Brussels, and it became the national monument of WW1. On the Armistice Day, there is a military parade in Brussels, and wreaths are laid on the grave of the Unknown Soldier. The parade is attended by the King and political and military leaders who pay their homage to the dead.

Between the two world wars, in every city and village of Belgium, there were remembrance ceremonies on November 11. Wreaths were laid at the local war memorial (which you can find in almost every belgium city or village), and the names of the fallen were read aloud. Often a religious service accompanied this, and in the larger villages and cities there were other activities.

Even today, most cities have their own celebrations on the Armistice Day, which is an official holiday in Belgium. The celebrations take place around local war memorials. Certainly the most important celebration (apart from Brussels) is in Ieper. After the Second World War, May 8 was chosen as the day to celebrate the liberation of Belgium, and it still exists as a special day of remembrance for veterans, but it is not an official remembrance day. Instead, the remembrance of
the Second World War has been incorporated in the remembrances of
the November 11.

Sikhs remember the dead
More than 30 different nationalities were engaged in the Ypres
Salient including the Sikhs. This is the reason why Armistice day is
important to the Sikh Nation and Sikhs have been participating in the
annual peace celebrations since November 11, 1998.

On 6th August 1914, the War Council asked the British Indian
government to send two infantry divisions and a cavalry brigade to
Egypt. The Lahore and the Meerut Divisions were chosen, later
followed by the Secunderabad Cavalry Brigade, which together
formed the Indian Army Corps. On 27th August the British
Government decided to send the Indian divisions to France in order to
reinforce the B.E.F. that had recently been forced to withdraw after
Mons. Meanwhile, the Lahore Division was already on its way to the
front. Its new destination was Marseilles, where it arrived by the end
of September. On its way to France, the Lahore Division left one of its
brigades near the Suez Canal, and, as some units of the Jullundur
Brigade only left India by the end of September, it was only the
Ferozapore Brigade that was at its full strength.

From Marseilles the Indian troops went north, over Orleans.
47th Sikhs of Jullundur Brigade while moving up to the front reached
near Saint-Omer on 20 October 1914. On 22 October 1914, the
Ferozepore Brigade arrived in the “new-born” Ypres Salient. They
were sent to the trenches between Hollebeke in the North and
Messines in the South. The trenches were not an uninterrupted line
then, but a series of loose trenches, without the complex system with
saps, communication trenches etc. that we are to know later in the
War.

The 1st Connaught Rangers - the British battalion that
belonged to the Ferozepore Brigade - were the first to have their
baptism of fire. The first Indian battalion that went into the firing line
was the 57th Wilde’s Rifles (57th Wilde’s Rifles (Dera Ismail Khan):
2 Sikhs, 2 Dogras, 2 Punjabi Moslims, 2 Pathans) in the vicinity of
Wijtschate - Oosttaverne. Later, the entire Lahore Division was
involved. In fact, the British Indian Army Corps was only deployed
twice in the Salient, but each time at very crucial moments, at the end
of October 1914 during the 1st Battle of Ypres, and at the end of April
1915, during the 2nd Battle.

The 57th Wilde’s Rifles and the 129th Baluchis suffered heavy
losses during the last two days of October 1914 (during the 1st battle
of Ieper). The Wilde’s Rifles lost 300 men out of 750, the Baluchis
had 240 men killed, wounded or taken as POWs. During the 2nd Battle
of Ieper, the 47 Sikh Regiment fought alone on 27 April 1915 and lost
348 men out of a total of 444.
Dr. Johan Meire of Katholieke Universiteit (Belgium) wrote in his book Memories of first World War In and Around Ieper, "Between 24th April and 1st May 1915 in week’s time, the Lahore Division had lost 3,889 men, or 30 % of the troops it had employed. 'It is finished with (Lahore) division', writes wounded Ishar Singh on 1st May 1915 to a friend in India,' It appears on both sides there will be no survivals - then ( when there is no body ) peace will prevail” (page 352).

In about fourteen months the Indian Corps had lost 34,252 men (dead, wounded, ill, or prisoners of war) on the Western Front in France and Belgium. The Lahore Division consisted of:

**Infantry**

**Ferozepore Brigade:** 1st Connaught Rangers
57th Wilde’s Rifles
9th Bhopal Infantry
129th Duke of Connaught’s Own Baluchis
(April 1915: + 4th London)

**Jullundur Brigade:** 1st Manchesters
15th Ludhiana Sikhs
47th Sikhs
59th Scinde Rifles (Frontier Force)
(April 1915: - 15th Ludhiana Sikhs, + 4th Suffolks, + 40th Pathans)

**Sirhind Brigade** 1/ Highland Light Infantry
1/1st Gurkhas
1/4th Gurkhas
125th Napiers Rifles
(April 1915: + 4/(King’s) Liverpool Regt, + 15th Ludhiana Sikhs)

**Divisional Troops**

**Artillery**
15th Lancers (Cureton’s Multanis)
34th Sikh Pioneers
20th and 21st Companies Bombay Sappers and Miners
5th, 11th, 18th Brigades, RFA
109th Heavy Battery

**Field Ambulances**
7th & 8th Field Ambulance (British)
111th, 112th & 113th Field Ambulance (Indian)
How many Sikhs Participated in World Wars?

The forces of British India played a major role in both World Wars. Nearly 1,700,000 men and women of the Commonwealth including some 160,000 from the forces of undivided British India died in the 1914-18 and 1939-45 Wars. In the first World War, the strength of the British Indian Army rose to one million and in the 2nd World War with two and half million. During WW-1, it fought in China, France and Belgium (Flanders), Mesopotamia against Turkey, Irak, Iran, Egypt, Palestine, Gallipoli and in East Africa. In 2nd WW, a company of the Royal Indian Army Service Corps was part of the British Expeditionary Force in 1940 campaign which ended in the evacuation from Dunkirk (France). Divisions of British Indian Army fought in the Western Desert, in the Middle East, in Eritrea, Ethiopia, they fought in Italy and took part in the liberation of Greece. But against Japan in the east, British Indian Army played its greatest role right through from the reverses of 1942 to the final overwhelming victory of 1945.

"In the last two world wars 83,005 turban wearing Sikh soldiers were killed and 109,045 were wounded. They all died or were wounded for the freedom of Britain and the world, and during shell fire, with no other protection but the turban, the symbol of their faith."

(General Sir Frank Messervy K. C. S.I, K. B. E., C. B., D. S. O.)

"The Sikh Regiment in the Second World War"
Colonel F T Birdwood OBE
Published in Great Britain by Jarrold and Sons Ltd., Norwich

Most of the People in Punjab does not know that their forefathers, the Sikhs have fought gallantry in Europe including Italy in the 2nd World War and played an important role for the liberation of Europe and paid heavy price for the freedom of mankind along with Allied forces as part of the forces of the Commonwealth. The total Allied casualties killed, wounded and missing were 312,000; of these, 42,000 of the killed belonged to the forces of the Commonwealth in Italy. Gurkhas, Sikhs and Muslims, the traditional warriors has a great history in Italy during that terrible and painful period of war.
IEPER - YPRES *
(During WW-I)

Ypres (population 34,758) is a Belgian City in West Flanders, in the Dutch speaking part of the country. The city's Dutch name is Ieper. Linen and lace are made in Ypres from the flax of Flanders. Ypres became famous as a centre of the textile industry about 1300. At that time, its population was about 20,000, almost as big as London's.

In World War I, Ypres was the scene of severe fighting, and was almost destroyed. It was rebuilt, but again became a battleground during World War II.

* From IBM Worldbook Encyclopedia Deluxe Version. Obviously the name of the City is Ieper, while the French call it Ypres. The British use the French version of the name, although the city is neither in France, nor French speaking
Remember Ieper 1914

Lieutenant General Sir James Wilcox
Commander of the Indian Corps : WW1, France & Flanders

'Over 138,000 Indian troops fought in Belgium and France during World War I, many of them Sikhs. More than one quarter of these soldiers would become casualties. In the first battle of Ypres (Ieper) in Flanders in 1914 a platoon of Dogra Sikhs died fighting to the last man, who shot himself with his last cartridge rather than surrender.

After the bloody battle of Neuve Chapelle in 1915, the Sikh regiments had lost 80% of their men, 3 regiments stood at only 16% of their original compliment. It was the dark days of 1914 when our men had to face mortars, hand grenades, high explosive shells with which they themselves were not provided. They could reply only with their valour, their rifles and two machine guns per battalion. And yet they did it.'

A letter found later on in the same battlefield on the body of an unknown Sikh soldier, written in Punjabi, for his village folks in Punjab (translated into English):

'Thousand and hundreds of thousands of soldiers have lost their lives ... If you go on the field of battle you will see corpses piled upon corpses, so that their is no place to put hand or foot. Many men have died from the stench ... No one has any hope of survival, ... for back to Punjab, ... will go only those who have lost a leg or an arm or an eye! ... The whole world has been brought to destruction.'
The emigration of Sikhs first took place into English speaking countries. The biggest numbers are found in Canada (600,000), the United States (500,000) and Great Britain (700,000). Only recently Sikhs came to the European continent. During the difficult eighties – the bombing of the Golden Temple in 1984 – and early nineties (because of the struggle for a more independent status of Punjab) a wave of violence came over the Punjab. Many young Sikhs came to southern Limburg, where they easily felt at home in the agrarian environment. Although they went through hard times themselves, they were the first to establish a gurdwara, in 1994 in Halmaal near Sint-Truiden.

The farmers from Punjab are hardworking and by nature pragmatic. Their faith, Sikhism, is a world religion. Universal values are stressed, like the equality of all persons, respect for another person’s religion, the family as the cornerstone of society, peace and democracy as foundations of society. Because of this the Sikhs anywhere in the world manage to merge into the local society, yet retaining their specific identity so well formulated by the last Guru, Gobind Singh, 300 years ago.

To conclude we quote from Sukhmani, the prayer of Guru Arjan (Sri Guru Granth Sahib, p. 1136), recited on the occasion of a cremation:

I do not keep the Hindu fast or the Muslim Ramadan.
I serve him alone who is my refuge.
I serve the One Master who is also Allah.
I will not worship with the Hindu, nor like the Muslim go to Mecca,
I shall serve him and no other.
I will not pray to idols nor say the Muslim prayer.
I shall put my heart at the feet of the One Supreme Being, for we are neither Hindus nor Muslims.
Subject: Sikhs in action in Europe. { World War I (1914-1919) }

Respected Sir / Madam,

With great pleasure and pride, we present you this film of World War I in which you will see that the Sikh soldiers have also contributed their share, like other nations of the world, by sacrificing their lives in large numbers for the freedom of mankind, especially in the wars of Neuve Chapelle, Ayette in France and Ipres in Belgium. Memorials have been erected in these cities in the memory of thousands of the Sikh soldiers who laid down their lives for a noble cause. Again, during the second World war of 1939-1945, Sikh soldiers repeated their traditional history of bravery and fought and died in great number in different parts of the Europe in order to free the mankind.

Now a large number of Sikh population is living in Europe, specially in western European countries like Holland, France, Germany, Italy, Belgium, Austria etc. We know that every year tributes are paid to the martyrs by organizing special ceremonies by the government and the city councils throughout Europe. We will appreciate if the local Sikh community is officially invited to such ceremonies so that the Sikhs can also pay homage to their forefathers in their traditional way. This will bring better understanding to know their religion, good relationship, friendship and harmony between the Sikhs and the local communities.

We hope that you will consider our request and will let us know soon. We assure you that the Sikhs throughout Europe will give you maximum co-operation in all respects.

Sincerely Yours

Bhupinder Singh
President
International Sikh Youth Federation Holland
Ministerie van Defensie

Aan:
President International Sikh Youth Federation
Holland
Mr. Bhupinder Singh
Oosterhoutstraat 24
1324 ZT Almere-Stad

Beljet
FAX 21-11-1997

Onzeheer
Sikhs in action in Europe

Respected Sir,

With great interest I have looked at the video about the participation of the Sikh soldiers during the World war 1.

In the Defensieoorloginstituut in the Hague we have some information about the veteran but unfortunately not specific about the Sikh soldiers.

However I can give you some addresses about Military people in the Dutch Army:

- Important phone numbers and addresses are in the brochure: Veteranen en Defensie.
- Oorlogsgastenstichting (brochure enclosed)
- Sectie Militaire Geschiedenis, mrs. Stolk tel 070-3165845 (brochure enclosed)
- Division ROP
Kosterbeemden 45
6460 NC Kerkrade
Tel: 045-5469966

Military people in the English/Canadian Army:
- Common Welth War Grave Commission
Elverdingksestraat 22
8500 Ieper Belgium
Tel: 00-3257 290118
Fax: 290718

I hope that this information can help you to find more information about the Sikh military people who laid down their lives for our freedom.

Yours Sincerely

Adrienne Moonen-Dellén
Projectleider AV/Multimedia Communicatie

Braggen
Recevierende
7
Kelvermarkt 35, Den Haag
070-3168356

Ministry of Defence

On behalf
Sikhs in action in Europe

Respected Sir,

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Yours Sincerely

Adrienne Moonen-Dellén
Projectleider AV/Multimedia Communicatie
From: Jeremy Gee, OBE

Commonwealth War Graves Commission
NORTHERN EUROPE AREA ELVERDINGSESTRAAT 82 8900 IEPER BELGIUM

Mr Bhupinder Singh
International Sikh Youth Federation
Oosterhoutstraat 24
NL 7T Almere Stad

6 April 1999

Dear Mr Bhupinder Singh,

This is just a short line to let you know how sorry I was to miss the closing ceremony of your recent festival on Sunday. This was due to a slight indisposition, which also resulted in me having to leave early from a separate function on the Sunday morning.

2. I was much impressed with the amount of work that went into making the inaugural meeting in Ieper such a success and I shall wait with interest to see how you build upon this initiative. I am sure that the Sikh community is greatly in your debt for underlining the important link through the First World War with this part of Europe.

3. May I wish well with your continuing endeavours.

Yours sincerely,

Jeremy Gee

Director
Ieper (Ypres), 12 October 2004

Dear Sikh Friends,

On behalf of the City of Ieper, I have the great honour to invite you again to take part in the annual Armistice Day commemorations in Ypres on 11 November 2004.

The programme is as follows:

9.30 a.m. Divine services in Saint Martin's Church (Catholic) and Saint George's Memorial Church (Church of England)

10.20 a.m. Formation of the “Poppy Parade” on the Vandenperreboomenplein, i.e. the square in front of Saint-Martin’s Church

10.25 a.m. Start of the Poppy Parade with laying of wreaths at the Belgian Monument

11.00 a.m. Commemoration service at the Menin Gate. This is the Memorial to the Missing of the British Empire, on which feature many names of Sikhs who perished in the First World War in Ypres.

Important notice: Due to the large number of participants and delegations, everyone is asked to strictly follow the directives given by the organiser during the ceremony. Per delegation only one to two persons will be allowed to take a position under the Menin Gate in order to lay the wreaths. The other members of the delegation are kindly asked to march past and take positions at the other side of the Menin Gate.

In the afternoon at 4 p.m. a special Remembrance Concert will take place in the Saint-Martin’s Church which is open to the public.

Of course, during the day there will be the opportunity to pay tribute at the memorial to the troops of the Indian Army in the Eckholstraat in Ijzerbeke, too.

Looking forward to greet once again a large number of Sikhs,
Yours sincerely

[Signature]

Deputy Mayor

STEDELIJKE MUSEUM IEPER

Jan van Eyckstraat 9
8500 Ieper
T 32 57 239 450
F 32 57 239 450
E steedelike.museum@eper.be
Hon. Gen. Pervez Musharraf  
Chief Executive of Pakistan

Ieper, 3 August 2000

Your Excellency,

The City of Ieper, Belgium, takes this opportunity to greet the people of Pakistan and to congratulate them on the occasion of their freedom day, 14 August.

A historical bond exists between our city and the people of Pakistan. During the First World War the City of Ieper was one of the focal points of the Western Front. Among the many different peoples who saw action in and around Ieper were also those from present-day Pakistan.

At the end of October 1914 troops from present-day Pakistan were among the first from the Indian sub-continent to be engaged on the Western Front. On 31 October 1914 Khudadad Khan from the 129 Baluchi Regiment won a Victoria Cross in the neighbourhood of Hollebeke (nowadays part of the City of Ieper). Some years ago a delegation of Pakistan, engaged in former Yugoslavia, visited our city and paid tribute to their ancestors who fought and died for the freedom of mankind.

With the legacy of four years of war in mind, Ieper is a City of Peace now. Each year on 11 November we remember the victims of the First World War and all other wars. On this occasion we often have the honour to have the ambassador of Pakistan as our guest. Be assured, your excellency, that a Pakistani delegation will always be heartily welcomed on the Armistice Day celebrations.

This letter will be handed over to you by Mr. Blupinder Singh from Holland, a long time friend of our city and one of the main advocates for the remembrance of soldiers from the Indian sub-continent, regardless their nationality or religion.

Yours sincerely,

acting Town Clerk                      Mayor of Ieper

Stefan DEPRAETERE                      Luc DEHAENE
Dear Mr. Singh,

On behalf of the City of Ieper (Ypres), I would like to thank you for all the efforts you have done so far and all the efforts you will do in the future to spread the renown of this City. In particular, I praise your continuous efforts to make Ieper more known as a City of Peace, and this throughout the world. In this way you can be considered a true ambassador of the City of Ypres in this way.

Ever since the preparations for the celebrations on the occasion of the 300th anniversary of the Birth of Khalsa in 1999 and the inauguration of the first Indian monument on the battlefields of the Ypres Salient which accompanied it, we consider you a true friend of this City.

It can be said that until 1999 the presence of the Indian troops in Flanders in 1914-1915, however important, was somewhat forgotten. It is largely due to the continuous efforts on your behalf that people, both in Flanders and Holland as well as in India and in Sikh communities all over the world, have become aware of the fact that Ieper is a very important place in our common history. In Western Europe, there is no other place where the history of the Indian sub-continent and the European history meet to such an extend.

It is an important task, which we share, to make people aware of the terrible facts that happened here between 1914 and 1918 and to commemorate those who gave their lives for us, and in particular the thousands of sepoys who perished on the western front.

Yours sincerely,

Luc Dehaene
Burgomaster of Ieper

Yan Breyte
Town Clerk
Landmacht
Landsmachtstaf
MPC 58A
Postbus 90701
2505 LG Den Haag
Telefoon 0703161846
Telefax 0703161845

Kleine Alexanderkazerne
Oude Waalbrugweg 39-39
2597 AE Den Haag

Naar aanleiding van uw brief van 25 september 1997, dank ik U hartelijk voor de mededeling m.b.v. het optreden van de "Sikhs-rijders" tijdens de Eerste Wereldoorlog.

Uw band vormt een aanwinst voor het beeldarchief van de Sectie Militaire Geschiedenis en zal aan de collectie worden toegevoegd.

HET HOOFD VAN DE
SECTIE MILITIAIRE GESCHIEDENIS
KONINKLIJKE LANDMACH
VOOR DIESE HET HOOFD VAN HET
BUREAU DOCUMENTATIE EN INFORMATIE

Msb C.E.M. Strik-Zijlstra
International Sikh Youth Federation
Rupinder Singh
Oosterhoutstraat 24
1324 ET ALmere

Re: National Commemoration
Ref.: 97/1807/431

Amsterdam, 13 December 1997

Dear Mr Singh

Having received your letter through the department of VWS, I can inform you of the following.

The National Commemoration is intended for first generation organizations, survivors and relatives of World War II and consists of two parts. The first part is a private gathering for the first generation in the Nieuwe Kerk, followed by an official ceremony on the Dam, which can be attended by everyone.

Members of the International Sikh Youth Federation are most welcome to attend to the public part on the Dam, where they can participate in the march past the National Monument and pay homage by laying flowers.

Yours sincerely

[Signature]

drs. Rino Hoogerbrugge
Manager

cc: Ministerie van VWS, GVvH
ROLE
OF THE
SIKHS OF
EUROPE
Honoring Sikh Veterans of
World War I

S.S. Hari Kaur Khalsa, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
Amrit Kaur Khalsa, Espanola NM, U.S.A.

When I lived in America, I always enjoyed Veteran's Day since it was a day off from work! My appreciation of Veteran's Day for its real meaning finally came to me recently in Eiper, Belgium on November 11, 1998 when I experienced a day honoring the Veterans of World War I.

Sat Dharam Singh Khalsa, a German Sikh colleague who lives in Amsterdam, and I went to the Veteran's Day ceremonies with a group of Sikhs from the Indian community here in Amsterdam to honor the Sikh soldiers who served in the British Army during World War I. The Sikh representation at this event was perfectly organized because of the hard work and efforts of Bhupinder Singh, President of the International Sikh Youth Federation.

Upon our arrival in Eiper, we joined with over one hundred Sikhs from Gurdwaras in Belgium, The Hague, Holland; Rotterdam, Holland; and Koln, Germany. We walked together with hundreds of other people and groups in an incredible parade down the streets of Eiper. The many other groups included representatives from Scotland with their bagpipes, a Belgian Army Group, British troops, some people playing brass instruments and drums, some singing, and everyone marching in perfect formation. I walked in the front row with four other Sikhs and helped carry two large, beautiful wreaths of flowers. As we passed by crowds of people on both sides of the street, they called out, "Thank you!" and started clapping in appreciation for what the Sikhs had contributed to the freeing of Belgium in World War I. I have never felt so proud to be a Sikh or felt so close to the whole Khalsa Panth, past and present.

Next we stood under Menin Gate, which is a huge open hall with archways leading into the city of Eiper. Inscribed on the inner walls of Menin Gate are the names of soldiers who perished there, but who were not recognizable enough to have a proper burial. There were many Sikh names engraved on this wall. It was very moving to see "Sikh Regiment 34 - Raja Singh, Har Nam Singh, Jagat Singh, Inder Singh, Dayal Singh" and hundreds of others. Many were from companies of the old British Empire with names such as "Queen Victoria's Own Corps of Guides," the "32nd Sikh Pioneers," "King George's Own Ferozepore Sikhs" and the "15th Corps Ludhiana Sikhs."
There we placed our wreaths - one on behalf of the Golden Temple in Amritsar and the other on behalf of the Belgium Gurdwara - as we stood together in prayer honoring our soldiers who had so courageously fought and died to free this foreign land. In my prayer, I clearly saw that Guru Gobind Singh had personally lifted each of his Sikh sons into the comfort of his embrace and radiance.

There were Ambassadors from every country in Europe who also placed wreaths in remembrance. There was much media coverage as well, so all of Europe was able to see this ceremony. Queen Elizabeth, the King and Queen of Belgium, and other dignitaries also came to honor the veterans of World War I. One thousand two hundred Sikhs soldiers died in World War I in Belgium. Thousands of Sikh soldiers died in other parts of Europe. This is the first time in eighty years that the Sikh soldiers specifically have been recognized and honored.

After the ceremony we went to the War Museum which displays various pictures of the proud Sikhs and their regiments and tells about the war and the horrible events that took place and what these young soldiers endured. Having a twenty year old son myself, I could only think how many mothers and wives had lost their young men of only 18, 19, and 20 years old on both sides of the war.

This was a profoundly moving day and I was honored to be part of this ceremony. I look forward to uniting with other Sikhs and participating in other events which are planned for the future to pay tribute to our Sikh brethren who gave their lives. One such event will take place April 2-4, 1999, when hundreds of Sikhs from all over Europe will be gathering in Eiper, Belgium, to once again pay tribute to our Sikh Veterans and celebrate the 300th Anniversary of the Birth of the Khalsa. You are invited to join together with your European brothers and sisters for kirtan, an Akhand Path dedicated to world peace, special tributes at Menin Gate for the soldiers, and an exhibit of the history of Sikhs from their beginning to modern times. Tribute will be paid by world Sikh leaders as well as local and national leaders of the Belgian government.

For more information, contact Bhupinder Singh at Singh_Bhupinder@nl.ibm.com and/or Hari Kaur at harikaur4us@yogitea.nl. For more information on Sikh Veterans, please see the Website www.sikhs.simplenet.com/ww1/index.html.

From Prosperity Paths Issue: February, 1999
300 Years of the Khalsa at Ieper

On April 2-4 1999, thousands of Sikhs from all over the world meet in Ieper, Belgium, to pray for peace in the world. This is a historical date for the Sikhs. In April 1699 - in days of persecution and repression - the tenth and last guru, Gobind Singh, initiated the Khalsa, in order to give strength and a strong feeling of identity to his followers. The European Sikhs are convinced that the City of Peace, Ieper (Ypres), amidst the fields of Flanders, - Poppy day may ring a bell for some - is the appropriate place for this anniversary celebration. Here fell many Sikhs, together with so many from both sides, in the Great War of 1914-1918. In their memory and in memory of all persons anywhere in the world who are oppressed, or are victims of war and violence, an Akhand Path will be held. This is a continuos reading of the whole Sri Guru Granth Sahib, the holy scripture of the Sikhs.

***

From the introduction to the beautiful little booklet: 300 Years of the Khalsa - A Celebration of Peace. It continues with a short description of the Sikh religion, the Khalsa, and a brief history of the Sikhs and of their contribution to the Allied war effort.

***

In the notorious Ieper crescent, also referred to as the Ieper Salient, out thirty different nationalities were deployed. Among these the Indian troops were present in significant numbers. Although most Indian troops were stationed near Neuve-Chapelle in France - the impressive Indian Memorial there commemorates this - they were also thrown into the First Ieper Battle - October 1914 - and the Second - May 1915. About 24000 men of the Meerut and Lahore Divisions disembarked at the Mediterranean port of Marseille in September/October 1914. There were two kinds of units in the British Indian Army: ethnic like the 47th Sikhs or 129th Baluchis, and mixed, like the 57th Wilde's Rifles. All officers were British.

In France, the Indian soldiers had of course serious problems of communication. The climate too was very harsh for them. In January 1915, a Sikh soldier wrote to his uncle in Jalandhar: "This country is very pleasant, but it is very cold here. Nobody has any clue about the language. They call milk 'doolee' and water 'doloo'!" [du lait, de l'eau]

From the 22nd of October 1914 there were Indian Troops in the trenches near Wijtschate and Mesen. On 26th October 1914, at 3 pm, the 129th Baluchis and the 57th Wilde's Rifles staged an attack to the south of Hollebeke. This was the first action of the Indian troops in the War. On 1st November the Indian troops were withdrawn from the front near Ieper. In the next months they were deployed near Fesubert,
Givenchy and -- Neuve-Chapelle. Six months later, 25th April 1915, the Lahore Division pitched tent near Ouderdom. These troops had been brought in a hurry to bolster the French and British who had suffered much in the first German gas attack - on 22nd April 1915. One day after their arrival, they were ordered to attack across an open field near Wieltje. In the resulting carnage, on that spring day, 348 of the 444 men of the 47th Sikhs met their death.

Like many other, Bhan Singh, the orderly of a Captain Banks of the 57th Wildes Rifles, was noted for his courage. When his captain fell, and although himself wounded and weak with facial injuries, he still tried to save him, instead of withdrawing. When Banks finally died, Bhan Singh retrieved his personal belongings. For several days, the severe attacks continued, including a chlorine gas attack, without gain or loss of one yard of territory. Finally the Indians were withdrawn, on 30th April. Between 24th and 1st May, 1915, the Lahore Division lost 3889 men, one third of its total.

After they left the Ieper Salient in May 1915, Indians were deployed only sporadically here. After yet another bloody battle, near Loos in September 1915, the Indian divisions left Europe and were deployed in Mesopotamia. That does not mean that all Indians had indeed left western Europe. Members of the Indian Labour Corps and of the Indian Cavalry were seen in western Europe, several times over the next three years.

***

Cooperation was sought by a group of European Sikhs, from the In Flanders Fields Museum and the Cultural Centrum Ieper. (Ieper is about 50 km south of Ostend, around 150 from the Dutch border.) The Belgian province of Flanders was most generous: the large town hall of Ieper, with four large halls were made available for use by the Sikh sangat, a huge khanda was placed on the tower, with beautiful lighting, a large langar kitchen was installed, buses for use for the tours to the battle fields were made available, wide publicity was given, ... the list is long. Support also came from Sikhs abroad; items were generously supplied for the Exhibition. These included Birs that had accompanied the valiant to cold war-torn Europe and had returned back to Punjab, with the surviving few, when it was all over.

In Flanders Fields Museum
Stad Ieper - city of peace
Flemish Bond
European Sikh Community
Geachte Heer, Geachte Mevrouw,

De Stad Ieper, in samenwerking met de Europese Sikh-gemeenschap, heeft het genouwen u uit te nodigen tot « Een Feest van Vrede », driehonderd jaar khalisa, opgedragen aan de nagedachtenis van de Sikh-soldaten van de Eerste Wereldoorlog.

Vrijdag 2 april, zaterdag 3 april, zondag 4 april 1999, Lakenvelder, Ieper.

Luc DEHAENE
Burgemeester van Ieper

Bhupinder Singh
in naam van de Sikh-Gemeenschap in Europa

Dear Sir, Madame,

The City of Ieper, in collaboration with the European Sikh Community, have the honour of inviting you to « A Celebration of Peace » to commemorate 300 years of Khalisa, in remembrance of the Sikh soldiers of W.W.I.

Friday 2 April, Saturday 3 April, Sunday 4 April 1999, Cloth Hall, Ieper, Belgium.

Luc DEHAENE
Mayor of Ieper

Bhupinder Singh
on behalf of the European Sikh Community

contact outside Belgium: Bhupinder Singh, Oosterhoutstraat 24, 1124 ZT ALMERE, Nederland. TEL: (IS54) 86-31-85498849 - 86-31-87338933
A CELEBRATION OF PEACE – 300 YEARS KHALSA – SIKHS IN WW1
EEN FEEST VAN VREDE – 300 JAAR KHALSA – SIKHS IN WO1

PROGRAMME/PROGRAMMA/

Donderdag 25 maart 1999 / Thursday 25 March 1999
HET SIKHTIJDSCHAP

20u., conferentie in het stadhuis (8 p.m., conference room of town hall)

HET SIKHTIJDSCHAP, lezing door Prof. Dr. W. Callenwart (K.U.Leuven)

Sikhism, lecture by Prof. Dr. W. Callenwart (K.U.Leuven)

Zaterdag 27 maart 1999 / Saturday 27 March 1999

14u., Grote Markt (2 p.m., Main Square)

Bhangra en Ghāta, opvoeringen van traditionele dansen van de Sikh.

(Bhangra and Gath, traditional Sikh dances)

15u., Jeugdcentrum Neermarkt (Neermarkt 9) (3 p.m., Youth Center, 9 Neermarkt)

Opening tentoonstelling **100 jaar khalsa – Indiërs in de Salient, 1914 – 1918**

Opening of the exhibition **100 years khalsa – Indian soldiers in the Ieper Salient, 1914-1918**

Vrijdag 2 april 1999 / Friday 2 April 1999

10u., Koninklijke Zaal, Lakenhalen (10 a.m., Royal Hall, Cloth Hall)

Verwelkoming door burgemeester van Ieper.

Opening van de tijdelijke Gurdwara (Sikh-tempel).

Voorlezing van de Guru Granth Sahib (het heilig boek van de Sikh).

Langer (Noodervleugel, Lakenhalen), doorlopend gratis vegetarische maaltijd voor alle bezoekers van de Gurdwara.

(Welcome by the Mayor of Ieper. Opening of the temporary Gurdwara. Reading from the Guru Granth Sahib).

Langer (Northern Hall, Cloth Hall), continuous free vegetarian meal served to all visitors of the Gurdwara.

20u., Menenpoort (8 p.m., Menin Gate Memorial to the Missing)

Lant Post. Annoevel Broeders
Zaterdag 3 april 1999 / Saturday 3 April 1999

- doorlopend, Koninklijke Zaal, Lakenhallen (continued Royal Hall, Cloth Hall)

Voorlezing van de Guru Granth Sahib (het heilige boek van de Sikhs), doorlopend tot aan de slotplechtigheid op zondagmiddag.

Langar (Noordvleugel, Lakenhallen), doorlopend gratis vergetarische maaltijd voor alle bezoekers van de Gurdwara.

(Reading from the Guru Granth Sahib (the holy book of the Sikhs), continues till the Closing ceremony on Sunday afternoon.

Langar (Northern Hall, Cloth Hall), continuous free vegetarian meal served to all visitors of the Gurdwara)

14u., busstopplaats achter de Lakenhallen (2 p.m., bus stop behind Cloth Hall)

Gelede buestocht in de Leper Salient, met halten op de plaatsen waar Indische soldaten gevochten hebben of herdenkt werden.

(Guided tours in the Leper Salient, with stops at the places where Indian soldiers fought or are now remembered)

16u., kruispunt Eekhofsstraat & Kasteelstraat, Hollebeke (4 p.m., Hollebeke, crossroads Eekhofsstraat & Kasteelstraat)

Ontwikkeling monumentje ter nagedachtenis van alle Indiërs die tijdens WO1 in Vlaanderen stierven. Korte oecumenische plichtigheid.

(Unveiling of a small monument, commemorating all Indian soldiers who died in Flanders during WW1. Short interdenominational service.)

20u., Menenpoort (8 p.m., Menin Gate Memorial to the Missing)

Last Post, Anzac Dagen

Zondag, 4 april 1999 / Sunday 4 April 1999

- doorlopend, Koninklijke Zaal, Lakenhallen (continued Royal Hall, Cloth Hall)

Voorlezing van de Guru Granth Sahib (het heilige boek van de Sikhs), doorlopend tot aan de slotplechtigheid.

Langar (Noordvleugel, Lakenhallen), doorlopend gratis vergetarische maaltijd voor alle bezoekers van de Gurdwara.

(Reading from the Guru Granth Sahib (the holy book of the Sikhs), continues till the Closing ceremony on Sunday afternoon.

Langar (Northern Hall, Cloth Hall), continuous free vegetarian meal served to all visitors of the Gurdwara)

(De welkomst kara kah Servered)
CELEBRATION OF PEACE
Remembering the Sikh Martyrs of World war - I & II on the occasion of 300 years of Revelation of Khalsa

Waheguru Ji Ka Khalsa ! Waheguru Ji Ki Fateh !!

Organisers of the Ieper Program:
Sardar Bhupinder Singh, the Netherlands, President of International Sikh Youth Federation (Netherlands) and Spokesman for the European Sikhs.
Sardar Inder Singh Jamu, Mayor of Barking & Dagenham, United Kingdom.
Sardar Pahlad Singh, Financial Manager Air France, the Netherlands.
Sardar Jaswinder Singh Sandhawalia, the Netherlands.
Sardar Jatinder Singh, the Netherlands.
Sardar Harjinder Singh Sandhu, the Netherlands.
Sardar Major Singh and Sardar Darshan Singh, the Netherlands.
Sardar Dr Chanan Singh Chan, Coventry, President British-Sikh Museum, UK.
Sardarni Hari Kaur Khalsa, representative of Singh Sahib Harbhajan Singh Yogi Ji.
Meneer Luc Dehaene, Mayor of Ieper, Belgium.
Meneer Jan Breyne, Secretary, Stad Ieper, Belgium.
Meneer Piet Chielens, Director, In Flanders Fields Museum, Stad Ieper, Belgium.
Meneer Dominiek Dendooven, Documentary center In Flanders Fields, Stad Ieper, Belgium.
Meneer Peter Slosse, Director, Department of Tourism, Stad Ieper, Belgium.
Meneer Jan de Wilde, Creator, In Flanders Fields Museum, Ieper City, Belgium.
Meneer Michel Vansuyt, President, West Vlaamse Gidsenkring, Belgium (Guide).
Professor Dr Winand M Callewaert, Department Asian Studies, Catholic University, Leuven, Belgium.
Meneer en Mevrouw Peter van Lindt, Spokesman for the Belgium Sikhs, Hasselt, Belgium.
Mevrouw Loucke Bamps, social worker, Sint Truiden, Belgium.
Meneer Wietse Fossey, Designer, Antwerpen, Belgium.
Sponsored By:

Sri Guru Singh Sabha Gurdwara, Den Haag, the Netherlands.
Guru Nanak Dev Gurdwara, Amsterdam, the Netherlands.
Guru Nanak Dev Gurdwara, Rotterdam, the Netherlands.
Gurdwara Sangat Sahib, Sint Truiden, Belgium.
Guru Nanak Sahib Gurdwara, Brussel, Belgium.
Sri Guru Singh Sabha Gurdwara, Paris, France.
International Sikh Youth Federation, the Netherlands.
Sardar Jagdish Singh Bhura, President, International Sikh Youth Federation, Belgium.
Amarjit Singh & Param Singh, Den Hague, the Netherlands.
Sardar Amarjit Singh Atwal, Ajaib Singh Atwal & Dalwinder Singh Atwal and their families, Belgium.

Speakers:

Sardar Parminder Singh Bal, President, International Sikh Youth Federation, UK.
Sardarni Hari Kaur Khalsa, on behalf of Singh Sahib Harbhajan Singh, USA.
Sardar Parminder Singh, SGPC Sri Amritsar, Punjab.
Sardar Mayor Inder Singh Jamu, Barking & Dagenham, UK.
Sardar Mayor Tarsem Singh Bhogal, Woolwich, UK.
Janab Mayor Abdul Karim Sheikh, New Ham, UK.
Sardar Beant Singh Sandhawalila, (related to Maharaja Dalip Singh) Amritsar.
Dr. Chanan Singh Chan, Coventry, President British Sikh Museum, UK.
Sardar Bhupinder Singh, President ISYF, the Netherlands and spokesman for the European Sikhs.
Sardar Iqbal Singh, Spokesman, ISYF Belgium.
Sardar Darshan Singh Mann, delegation leader of the Sikh Veterans of the second World War and Mohinder Singh (Royal Air Force) UK.
Meneer Piet Chielens, Director, In Flanders Fields Museum, Stad Ieper, Belgium.
Meneer Pieter Van Den Berghe, Deputy Mayor, Stad Ieper, Belgium.
Meneer Jan Breyne, Secretary, Stad Ieper, Belgium.
Meneer Paul Breyne, Gouverneur West Flanders Province, Belgium.
Mayor Luc Dehaene, Ieper City, Belgium (He inaugurated the Sikh Exhibition on March 27 and spoke and exchanged gifts on April 4, 1999).
Granthis:

Bhai Rajinder Singh & Bhai Gurninder Singh, Gurdwara Sangat Sahib, Sint Truiden, Belgium.
Bhai Sitara Singh, Gurdwara Siri Guru Singh Sabha, Den Haag.
Bhai Harjinder Singh, Guru Nanak Dev Gurdwara, Amsterdam.
Bhai Chain Singh & Bhai Gurdial Singh, Gurdwara Singh Sabha, Paris.

Sewadars during Akhand Path:

Sardar Surjit Singh Sandhu & Kamaljit Singh Khalsa of Amsterdam.

Kirtani Jathas:

Bhai Baldev Singh Ji and Jatha, Southall, UK.
Bhai Rajinder Singh Ji and Jatha, UK.
Bhai Rajinder Singh Ji & Jatha, Gurdwara Sangat Sahib, Belgium.
Sardarni Hari Kaur Khalsa, Sardarni Gurbani Kaur Khalsa and Jatha,
Sri Guru Ram Das Ashram, Amsterdam, Paris, Hamburg.

Sikh Exhibition by:

In Flanders Field Museum, Stad Ieper, Belgium.
Imperial war Museum, London, UK.
Sardar Dr Chanan Singh Chan, Coventry, President, British-Sikh Museum, UK.
Guru Ram Das Ashram, Amsterdam, Paris & Hamburg.
Maharaja Dalip Singh Trust, UK.
Belgian Army Museum, Brussel, Belgium.
Bavarian Archives, München, Germany.
Great People of Ieper, Belgium.
Sikh Veterans of the second world war.
Sardar Darshan Singh Mann, Delegation leader.
Sardar Mohinder Singh.
Sardar Gurcharan Singh Brar.
Sardar Ujjagar Singh Nijjar.
Sardar Bhag Singh Grewal.
Sardar Harbhajan Singh Mann.
Sardar Joginder Singh.
All from the UK.
**Bhangra dance by :**

Ruh Punjab Di, famous Bhangra team of the UK.

**Martial Arts of the Sikhs (Gatka) by Guru Ram Das Ashram, Amsterdam, Hamburg.**

**Video Film by :**

Sardar Kamaljit Singh, Amsterdam, the Netherlands.

**Panj Piaras who performed the inauguration ceremony of the Monument on April 4 :**

Bhai Harjinder Singh - Bhai Sitara Singh, the Netherlands, Bhai Chain Singh - France, Bhai Ranjit Singh - Belgium, Bhai Perminder Singh - SGPC, Amritsar.

Panj Piaras who led the Nagar Kirtan to Menen Gate on April 4:
Bhai Baldev Singh - UK, Bhai Rajinder Singh - Belgium, Bhai Jagir Singh - Bhai Sohan Singh, the Netherlands, Bhai Gurdial Singh - France.

Bhai Chain Singh France and Bhai Sitara Sigh - the Netherlands carried the Nishan Sahib along with the Panj Piaras.

**People who were honoured besides the Speakers :**

Meneer Dominiek Dendooven (Documentary Center).
Meneer en Mevrouw Peter van Lindt (Spokesman for the Belgium Sikhs).
Mevrouw Loucke Bamps (Social Worker).
Meneer Wietse Fossey (Designer).
Family of Hawaldar Sardar Badan Singh Mangat who fought in Ieper (daughter Bibi Harbhajan Kaur Sandhu and her sons Sardar Sapinder Singh - Jaspal Singh and her daughter Bibi Surinder Kaur and son-in-law Sardar Swaran Singh from Gent-Belgium).

**Special thanks to :**

Singh Sahib Daljit Singh Ji Khalsa, Guru Nanak Sikh Mission of America, Chicago, USA.
Sardar Mayor Inder Singh Jamu, Barking & Dagenham, UK.
Sardar Mohinder Singh Chahal, Sikh Missionary Society, Southall, UK.
Siri Guru Singh Sabha, Southall, UK.
Sardar Major Joginder Singh Brar, Secretary, The Undivided Indian Ex-Services Association (1746-1947) Southall, UK.
Mr Jeremy Gee, OBE, Commonwealth War Graves Commission, Ieper, Belgium.
Meneer Luc Dehaene, Mayor of Ieper, Belgium.
Sardar Joga Singh & Sardar Sukhwinder Singh Sukhi from Belgium.
Sardar Perminder Singh, SGPC, Amritsar for the model of Sri Harmandir Sahib.
April 3 1999 - the Panj Piare unveil the Monument at Hollebeke. From left to right: Bhai Chain Singh - France, Bhai Ranjit Singh - Belgium, Bhai Harjinder Singh - the Netherlands, Bhai Perminder Singh - Punjab and Bhai Sitara Singh - the Netherlands. Abdul Karim Sheikh, Mayor of New Ham, UK is seen among the Sikh Soldiers of WW II, who were honoured by Governor Paul Breyne of West Flanders Province on April 4. Bhupinder Singh, the main organiser of this event is seen at extreme right.