

# The black and asian soldiers of the first world war

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These are Indian soldiers that fought in the First World War.

**These Indian soldiers are just one group of people who fought in the First World War. This book will also explain about:**

**The British Empire.**

**The countries in the British Empire.**

**The contributions made by soldiers from the Empire.**



**How people from these countries were treated.**



# THE BRITISH EMPIRE

The British Empire was made up of all sorts of different countries from all parts of the world. Some of the soldiers that fought for the British Army in the First World War were Indian, some were from the Caribbean and some of the soldiers were African.

However black and Indian soldiers were not treated equal to the white British soldiers. The British did treat the Indians better than the black soldiers. The British soldier believed in a racial rank order. White people were at the top. Asian people were in the middle and black people were at the bottom.



-  Territory claimed by Britain but not settled
-  British territory held before 1793

-  Territory permanently acquired by Britain during wars, 1793 - 1814
-  Territory temporarily occupied by Britain during wars, 1793 - 1814

## The Indian soldiers

There were around 1.5 million Indian soldiers that VOLUNTEERED to fight in the war. These soldiers weren't forced they offered to fight for Great Britain. Many of the Indian soldiers were put on the western front line, around 140 000 in fact. The Indian soldiers got put on the frontline quite quickly. The Indian soldiers were on the frontline within ONE month of the war starting. Many of the soldiers died but some survived including one man going by the name of Khudadad Khan who was the first ever Indian person to be awarded the Victoria Cross



## **The Caribbean soldiers**

**There were also other regiments in the British army one of which was the West Indies regiment. In this regiment were 15600 Caribbean soldiers from the islands of Trinidad and Tobago. Of the masses amounts of people from these colonies approximately 2500 were wounded or injured and approximately 1200 died during the First world war period.**



**This is an image of some Caribbean soldiers**

## **The treatment of the Black and Asian soldiers**

As I have said before the Black and Asian soldiers were treated very badly. Although Asian soldiers were treated in a better manner than the Black soldiers in the First World War. They were not allowed to be weapons carriers they would be ambulance men or other low ranked jobs. The Blacks and Asians weren't forced to join the army.