

## The First World War and contribution of Haryana to the world war (1914-1918)

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### Abstract

The First World War start on 4 august 1914. At the start ‘the conflict’ involved seven countries, but later some thirty countries joined it. It was most bloody affair where world’s entire resources were used to produce death and destruction. Nothing like it had happened before. The First World War broke out in 1914 and India being a part of the British Empire was dragged into the war activities. The people of Haryana helped the government by providing recruits and by contributing money and material. “Haryana contribution to the army personnel was 71,366”. Not very differently from their countrymen elsewhere. The Hindu, Muslims and Sikhs vied each other to help the Sarkar Bahaudur in their ‘bad times’. The jats, Ahirs, Rajputs, Gujars, Ranghars, almost everyone who considered oneself to be a part of the so – called ‘martial races’, came forward to join the army with great enthusiasm, and in pretty large numbers.

**Keywords:** First World War, Haryana contribution, British empire, army

### Introduction

#### Limitation of the research paper’s

Limitation of the research paper’s First World War 1914 – 1918 (only Haryana)

#### Objectives of the study

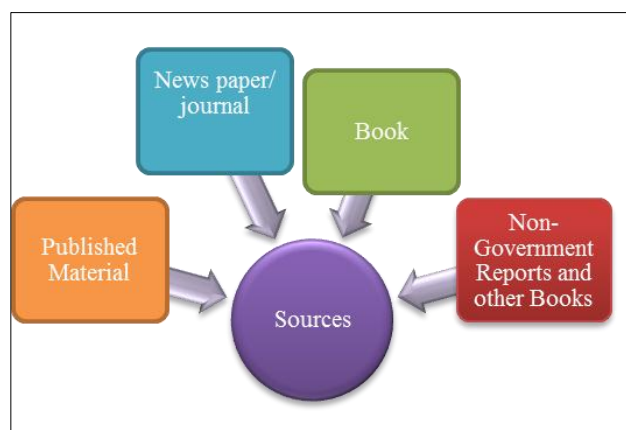
- The Contribution of Haryana to the world war (1914 – 1918)
- How did the people Of Haryana respond?

#### Material

Only secondary data use research paper.

- Book (published history book and article)
- Library (Use Library Mahatma Gandhi Antarrashtriy Hindi Vishwavidyalay, wardha, Maharashtra, 422001.)
- Internet and some useful website (related research paper)

#### The Sources



### Method

The paper is based on secondary data sources. This study is based on Historical method.

#### The First World War and Contribution of Haryana to the World War (1914 – 1918).

The total number of men from the then Gurgaon district served during World War I was 20, 181, out of which 17,700 were enlisted during the war. The related position of the district in the then province of Punjab in these respects was 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>, respectively. The district registered 314 fatal casualties. Pataudi; which was then a separate princely state, contributed 450 persons. This was a 14.5% of eligible males, which was about the same as in the Gurgaon district (14.2%). The villages, namely Uton, khandsa, Biser, Akbarpur and Khotala Serai in the Gurgaon district gave practically every able – bodied man and boy <sup>[2]</sup>.

The people of Ambala helped the Government in its war efforts. The village peasants gave 8,341 recruits for the army. The urban rich contributed to the war loans and funds. In the sphere of recruitment; all kinds of inducements were held out of those who brought the recruits. Public rewards were given to those who helped the Government. Almost in every district durbars were held. It was in a durbar held bay Sir Michal O, Dwyer in Haryana that the Government assured that it would dig Bhakhra Dam Canla which might change the face of Haryana. During the war, the efforts of Rohtak district in supplying manpower to the army and making substantial contributions to the various Funds placed it among the Its five districts of the province, Lord Chelmsford, the Viceroy made a special visit to Rohtak as a mark of appreciation. A total number of 22,144 recruits were taken from the Rohtak district which topped the list <sup>[3]</sup>. See Table.1.

**Table 1:** District-Wise Enlistment, 1915 – 18 <sup>[4]</sup>

District	1 Jan 1915	4 Aug 1914-31 Mar 1916	1 Jan 1917-30 Jun 1917	1 Jul 1917-31 Dec 1917	1 Jan 1918-31 May 1918	1 June 1918-30 Nov 1918	Total up to Nov
Hisar	3,046	2,795	1,438	4,589	1,251	3,698	15,461
Rohtak	6,245	5,025	3,014	3,361	1,546	3,950	22,144
Gurgaon	2,481	3,440	2,241	4,048	2,184	4,869	18,867
Karnal	6,33	532	635	1,463	683	3,005	6,553
Ambala	17,55	1,256	482	989	1,893	2,070	8,241
Princely States	12,89	NOT	703	783	1,049	1,515	8,566

In the First World War, the people of Bhiwani area helped the Government in its war efforts in two ways, first, by providing recruits and second by their contribution to the war loans. The peasants, including the Ranghars provided approximately 10,000 combatants to Indian army and imperial troops <sup>[5]</sup>. See Table.2.

**Table 2:** District/States War Loans <sup>[6]</sup>

District/States War Loans	War Loans
Native States	12,90,000/-
Ambala	25,96,441/-
Karnal	24,45,226/-
Gurgaon	15,99,118/-
Rohtak	24,12,865/-
Hissar	82,90,016/-

The rich business people of the town and landlords gave substantial monetary help <sup>[7]</sup>. The Jind State in the war days maintained its loyal tradition by placing all resources at the disposal of the British authorities. The jind imperial Service Regiment was on active service for about 3/1/2 years in east Africa. The present Mahendragarh district was a part of princely State of Patiala whose king also helped the British authorities in providing men and material. A recruiting center was opened at Delhi, for the drafting of youths of Haryana. Jhajjar, Rewari and Bhiwani were other centers of recruits. In fact, in this way, the communal feeling was encouraged <sup>[8]</sup>.

Later it was replaced by the territorial system of recruitments through which men of any class could be enrolled in every district. Coercive methods were also used with a view to enlisting recruits <sup>[9]</sup>. The proposals for conscription methods were also made. But the Government of India rejected the idea of conscription on political grounds. The attempts were made to encourage loyalty to get more recruitment. Indian officials and respectable were employed in recruiting work in each district. Honours and commissions were given to them by the Government very much were Chaudhry Lal Chand and Pt. Parbhu Dayal of Rohtak; Rao Balbir Singh of Gurgaon; Chaudhry Lajpat Rai of Hissar and Chaudhry Bansgopal of Karnal <sup>[10]</sup>.

General Dwyer described the war – lone as *Phal – nale Phallion* (honour with profit). A day was fixed in Haryana in order to collect the funds and the people of Haryana, as already explained, contributed generously. The highest individual contribution made in the province was Rs.10 Lakh from Rai Bahadur Sukh Lal of Bhiwani, and 4.5 lakh from Rai Sahib Tara Chnad; whereas the wife of former subscribed another one lakh to the women's section of the lone. The town of Bhiwani, Which had initially promised Rs. 15 lakh as Loans, contributed Rs. 25 lakh. It was the highest contribution in proportion. The jind State's war gifts, amounted to over Rs. 24 lakh; while the total lone raised in the State amounted to

Rs. 11 lakh. The British Government thanked the Maharaja very heartily after the war <sup>[11]</sup>. The then area of Mahendragarh and Narnaul contributed liberally to the War Fund and War Loan. Bihari Lal of Rewari and Jagannath of Gurawada who contributed Rs. 65,000, respectively <sup>[12]</sup>. Besides the supply of manpower for the purpose of war, Karnal district also contributed substantially to the aero plane Fund the Imperial Indian Relief Fund. Comforts Funds and War – Loans <sup>[13]</sup>. The people of Sirsa area did not lag behind in extending loyal and giving monetary help to the British Government during the war's days. The contribution of the Sirsa area to the war – loan in as under <sup>[14]</sup>. See Table.3.

**Table 3:** Donors to the War Fund <sup>[15]</sup>

Name of the donor (District Hisar)	Amount (In Rs.)
Seth Sukh Lal (Sirsa)	10,00,000
Ms. Ramnarain - Jailal (Bhiwani)	5,59,750
L. Tara Chnad (Bhiwani)	5,40,250
L. Jagan Nath Balu	1,41,100
Ch. Chhaju Ram (Alakhpura)	1,40,000
Ch. Sher Singh (Hansi)	1,35,000
L.Raghu Nath (Hansi)	1,15,000
L. Ram Sahay Family (Sirsa)	1,06,000
L. Ballu Ram (Hetampura)	1,04,000
Ms. Narsingh Bhuramal (Bhiwani)	1,02,000
Ms. Sukh Lal (Sirsa)	1,00,000
Khan Yakinuddin (Sirsa)	66,000
Ms. Ramnarani (Bhiwani)	56,000
Ms. Tara Chnad (Bhiwani)	55,000
Ch. Sodhekhan ((Shekhpura)	55,000
Ms. A.Lalit	52,000
L. Chhabil Das (Hisar)	50,000
K.Abdul Gaffur Khan (Hisra)	50,000
<b>District Rohtak</b>	<b>Amount (in Rs.)</b>
L. Lachmi Narain (Beri)	55,000
Mahant Puran Nath(Asthal Bohar)	51,000
<b>District Gurgaon</b>	<b>Amount (in Rs.)</b>
L. Behari Lal (Rewari)	65,000
L. Jagan Nath (Gurawara)	55,000
<b>District Karnal</b>	<b>Amount (in Rs.)</b>
Seth Jwala Singh (Jharoli)	1,21,400
Seth Lakhmi Chnad(Panipat)	1,21,400

## Conclusion

The above discussion shows that every caste, class and collectivity in Haryana supported the war efforts to the best of their abilities and means. The peasants gave me; the wealthy traders, bankers, *zamindars* and other rich men gave money, material and other Services. But what did the government give these people in return of their services and help? Many persons were given titles – *Rai Bahaduri*, *Khan Bahaduri* and *Sardar Bahaduri*, *Kurshinashini sanads*, *jagirs*, *recruiting badges*, etc., See Table.3 and 4.

**Table 3:** Rewards for War Services <sup>[16]</sup>

District	No. of awards	Sword of honour	Seat in durbar	Jagirs	Land (rectangles)	Recruiting badge
Hisar	12	2	3	4	18	7
Rohtak	14	6	2	4	28	13
Karnal	6	2	3	-	19	6
Ambala	12	3	4	-	34	12
Gurgaon	5	6	2	2	13	20
total	49	19	14	10	112	58

**Table 4:** Classification of Rewardees <sup>[17]</sup>

Category	Titles	Jagir	Land (rectangles)	Seat in provincial or dist. durbar
Rajas, Nawabs and Jagirdars	6	-	16	-
Landlords	29	9	102	9
Traders	13	1	8	3
Other Upper Middle Classman	5	2	6	3

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