

The Indian Army 1910-1940 - About the Infantry, Part 2

14th Punjab Regiment



14th Punjab Regiment. Regimentsmärke, 1940.
From Source 1.

According to the 1922 scheme, the regiment consisted of:

1st Bn. (formerly *19th Punjabis*) 2nd Bn.
(formerly *20th Duke of Cambridge's Own Punjabis*) 3rd Bn. (formerly *22nd Punjabis*) 4th Bn. (formerly *24th Punjabis*)
5th Bn. (formerly *40th Pathans*) 10th Bn.
(formerly *21st Punjabis*)



The 19th Punjabis.

Drawn by AC Lowett, 1910. Postcard in the "Our Indian Armies" series, A. & C. Black, London, from c. 1920.

The postcard shows the battalion in both field uniforms and parade uniforms, as well as a soldier in civilian clothes (*mufti*).



Officers and Privates, 24th Punjabis.
Drawn by AC Lowett, 19101). —

The 20th Duke of Cambridge's Own Punjabis and 22nd Punjabis were part of the 6th (Poona) Infantry Division, which in September 1914 was sent to Mesopotamia, see e.g. my article *The Road to Basra - 1914* by Christopher Trevelyan.

Later, the 24th Punjabis was also sent to this front section, where the battalion, together with the 22nd Punjabis, suffered heavy losses during the fighting at Ctesiphon and later perished in connection with the siege of Kut. The survivors ended up in Turkish captivity, where they were tormented and tormented by an enemy who until then had been considered *gentlemen*.

The battalions were quickly re-established, and then distinguished themselves during the further battles in Mesopotamia and then during the Third Afghan War in 1919.

Referrals

1. 14h Punjab Regiment, generalt 2.
- 14h Punjab Regiment, historie 3.
- Pakistan: The Punjab Regiment to 1957 4.
- Punjab Regiment, Pakistan

The most unusual unit of the regiment is the 5th Battalion, which was the only battalion in the Indian Army to consist entirely of Pathans. The battalion was nicknamed the Forty Thieves, after its number, *and* Major Graves, who founded the battalion, was not surprisingly nicknamed Ali Baba.

Name changes

1903

1922

19th Punjabis

1st Bn., 14th Punjab Regiment

20th Duke of Cambridge's Own
Punjabis

2nd Bn.(Duke of Cambridge's Own) (Brownlow's), 14th Punjab Regiment

24th Punjabis

4th Bn., 14th Punjab Regiment

16th Punjab Regiment



16th Punjab Regiment. Regimentsmærke, 1940.
From Source 1.

According to the 1922 scheme, the regiment consisted of:

1st Bn. (formerly *30th Punjabis*) 2nd Bn.

(formerly *31st Punjabis*) 3rd Bn. (formerly

33rd Punjabis) 4th Bn. (formerly *9th*

Bhopal Infantry) 10th Bn. (formerly *46th Punjabis*)



*Menig, 30th Punjabis og underkorporal (lance-naik), 20th Duke of Cambridge's Own Punjabis.
Drawn by AC Lowett, 1910.*



*Officer and Private of 33rd Punjabis
Drawn by AC Lowett, 1910.
Postcards in the "Our Indian Armies"
series, A. & C. Black, London, from c. 1920.*



16th Punjab Regiment (3rd Bn.). Cigarette Card No. 28 in the Soldiers of The King series published by Godfrey Philips Ltd., 1939.

The back of the card tells the following story:

The 33rd Punjabis (now 3rd Battalion, 16th Punjab Regiment) were raised at Allahabad, India, in 1857, as the "Allahabad Levy", and became the 37th Regiment of Bengal Native Infantry four years later; in 1890 they were known as the 33rd (Punjabi Mahomedan) Regiment of Bengal Infantry, and present designation dates from 1922. Class composition is Punjabi Musalmans, Sikhs and Dogras. Regimental battle honours include Afghanistan 1878-80, Burma and several fronts of the Great War, 1914-18, campaigns which reflect the greatest credit on the loyalty and fighting ability of this famous native infantry regiment.



The 46th and 33rd Punjabis.

Drawn by AC Lowett, 1910. Postcard in the "Our Indian Armies" series, A. & C. Black, London, from c. 1920.

Referrals

1. 16th Punjab Regiment, generalt
2. 16th Punjab Regiment, historie
3. Pakistan: The Punjab Regiment to 1957
4. Punjab Regiment, Pakistan



Indian wooden wagon, 1914. Simultaneous French postcard.

The 9th Bhopal Infantry, nicknamed *The Bo-Peeps*, was sent to France in 1914, as part of The Ferozepore Brigade in The Lahore Division.

The battalion's task was initially to secure the brigade's and battalions' training. It then became a corps reserve, but it swirled with conflicting orders, so it wasn't quite clear for which corps (perhaps the English cavalry corps).

The battalion's 4 companies consisted of Sikhs, Punjabis, Rajputs and Brahmins. Brahmins rank highest among Hindus, and are strictly orthodox. Their faith prescribes that they may only partake of food prepared by other Brahmins; sick and injured Brahmins must also be cared for only by other Brahmins. Newly arrived English officers could inadvertently, during inspection of the kitchen areas, cast a shadow on e.g. the rice of the Brahmins, after which it all had to be thrown away.

Before the Brahmins were sent to the front, they had agreed to relax their special rules, but this nevertheless gave rise to certain difficulties in practice, both in terms of food, sanitary service and personnel compensation.



Corporal (lance-naik) and Lieutenant (subadar) 3rd Sappers and Miners.

Drawn by AC Lowett, 1910.

Postcard from the National Army Museum, London.

The battalion's first combat action was at Neuve Chapelle on 26-28. October 1914, where, together with 2 companies of the 47th Sikhs and the division's 2 engineer companies (20th and 21st Company, 3rd Sappers and Miners), it was deployed in an attack against German positions.

The battalion lost 11 officers and 462 men, of which 200 alone in a bayonet attack at Festubert.

The battalion commander, Lt. Col. Dobie (age 51), who was highly esteemed by his soldiers and similarly valued by his men, broke down after these heavy losses and had to be on sick leave before being retired in August 1915 after nearly 30 years' service with the battalion.

Sappers and Miners, from 1922 The Corps of Sappers and Miners, in 1914 comprised three different "corps" that provided the field army's engineer companies.

The two engineer companies [2](#)) had mistakenly not been sent back after they had completed tasks in repairing the trench line, and were now deployed as a final reserve. It cost them all the English officers and a third of their force.

Name changes

1903	1922
30th Punjabis	1st Bn., 16th Punjab Regiment
33rd Punjabis	3rd Bn., 16th Punjab Regiment
9th Bhopal Infantry 4th Bn., 16th Punjab Regiment (Bhopal)	
46th Punjabis	10th Bn., 16th Punjab Regiment

A suitable rounding off of this detour for engineer troops deployed as infantry, may perhaps be the badge of the above regiment.



Royal Bombay Sappers and Miners.

Regimental badge, 1940.

From Source 1.

Unlike the English Corps of Engineers, which wears only one pennant *Ubique* (everywhere), the three Indian corps carry individual pennants. Thus the Royal Bombay Sappers and Miners, and their successors in today's Indian Corps of Engineers, carry more than 60 different pennants, including *the Festubert 1914 '15*.

Reference

1. The Royal Bombay Sappers and Miners

Name changes

1903

1922

3rd Sappers and Miners Royal Bombay Sappers and Miners

Pioneer battalions



Pioneer Regiments. Drawn by AC Lowett, 1910.
Postcard from the National Army Museum, London.

From left to right:

- 34th Sikh Pioneers,
- 12th Pioneers (The Kelat-i-Ghilzai Regiment),
- 128th Pioneers,
- 81st Pioneers,
- 64th Pioneers,
- 61st King George's Own Pioneers,
- 48th Pioneers,
- 23rd Sikh Pioneers,
- 106th Hazara Pioneers,
- 34th Sikh Pioneers og 107th Pioneers.

The order, which is indicated on the back of the map, is not completely correct, but with the help of the website [The British Empire](#) is listed here correctly.



Example of regimental badge:

1st Madras Pioneers, 1922.

From Military Badges.

The pioneer battalions, which were a kind of infantry pioneers rather than actual engineer troops, were a feature of the Indian Army until the end of 1914, but trench warfare meant that the unit type also appeared in the British Army - with one pioneer battalion per infantry division. In 1914, the pioneer battalions were in principle organized like the infantry battalions, incl. 2 medium machine guns.

In 1914 included 34th Sikh Pioneers in The Lahore Division, and 107th Pioneers in The Meerut Division.



2nd Bombay Pioneers. Drawn by CLP Lawson, c. 1925.

From Source 4.

From left to right:

Two privates (*sepoys*) in field uniform, 128th Pioneers;

lieutenant (*subadar*) and private in parade uniform, 48th Pioneers and 107th Pioneers; privates in

field uniform, 121st and 12th Pioneers. and

In 1922, the pioneer battalions were combined into 3 regiments and an independent battalion. For cost-saving reasons, the units were closed down in 1933.

Name changes

1903

1922

61st Pioneers

1st Bn. (King George's Own) 1st Madras Pioneers

64th Pioneers

2nd Bn. 1st Madras Pioneers

81st Pioneers

10th (Training) Bn. 1st Madras Pioneers

107th Pioneers

1st Bn. 2nd Bombay Pioneers

12th Pioneers

2nd Bn. (Kelat-i-Ghilzie) 2nd Bombay Pioneers

128th Pioneers

3rd Bn. 2nd Bombay Pioneers

48th Pioneers

4th Bn. 2nd Bombay Pioneers

121st Pioneers

10th (Training) Bn. (Marine Bn.) 2nd Bombay Pioneers

23rd Sikh Pioneers

1st Bn. 3rd Sikh Pioneers

32nd Sikh Pioneers

2nd Bn. 3rd Sikh pioneers

34th Sikh Pioneers

3rd Bn. (Royal) 3rd Sikh Pioneers

2/23rd Sikh Pioneers (1914) 10th (Training) Bn. 3rd Sikh Pioneers

106th Hazara Pioneers (1904) 1/4th Hazara Pioneers (Independent Battalion)

4th Prince of Wales' Own Gurkha Rifles



4th Prince of Wales' Own Gurkha Rifles.
Regimental badge, 1940.
From Source 1.

Already with the 1903 organization each Gurkha regiment consisted of 2 battalions, which was retained by the 1922 arrangement.

4th The Gurkha Rifles was the writer John Master's (1914-1983) regiment - a time when he, among other things, has depicted in the books *Bugles and a Tiger* (in Danish Indian Fanfare) and *The Road Past Mandalay*.

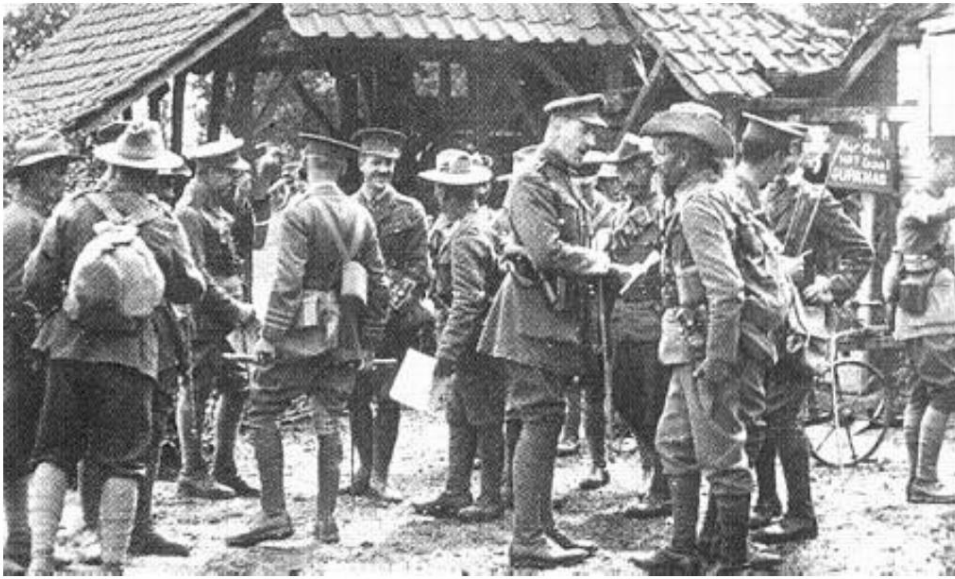


A Rear-Guard Action - 4th Prince of Wales' Own Gurkha Rifles.
Drawn by AC Lowett, 1910.
Postcard from the National Army Museum, London.

Major Lowett has shown the regiment as it must have gone out during, for example, the action on the North-West Frontier in 1895.

The crested hats were a distinctive headgear for the Gurkhas.

Similar uniforms were worn in France in 1914/15, however with long trousers and the officer's troop helmet would be replaced by a cap or cocked hat.



English officer and Gurkha officers, photographed in front of the staff quarters of the 1/1st Bn. King George's Own Gurkha Rifles (The Malaun Regiment), in France, 1915. 2nd Gurkha Rifles. From Source 9, which states that it is The sign in the right corner of the picture however shows "H... Q... 1/1st (KGO) GURKHAS.

However, the two battalions were part of each brigade, each division - The Sirhind Brigade (Lahore Division) and The Dehra Dun Brigade (Meerut Division) respectively.



Light machine gun group of the 7th Gurkha Rifles, 1927. From Military Modeling magazine, November 1992.

As can be seen from the picture above and the picture on the left, the hats were not always worn with a hug.

Name changes

1903

1922

1st Gurkha Rifles 1st King George's Own Gurkha Rifles (The Malaun Regiment)

2nd Gurkha Rifles 2nd King Edward's Own Gurkha Rifles (The Semoor Regiment)

4th Gurkha Rifles 4th Prince of Wales' Own Gurkha Rifles

Postscript



Indian Cavalry and Infantry, c. 1914.

Contemporary postcard from Raphael Tuck & Son's series 8818, *At the Front II*.

The back of the card contains the following graphic text:

My suggestion for an identification of the figures, in relation to the composition of the Indian Expeditionary Force in France 1914-15, is:

- 15th Lancers (Cureton's Multanis)
- 34th Prince Albert Victor's Own Poona Horse
- 15th Ludhiana Sikhs

The 15th Lancers were the divisional cavalry of The Lahore Division, while the 34th Poona Horse formed part of The Secunderabad Cavalry Brigade; 15th Ludhiana Sikhs were part of The Sirhind Brigade/ Lahore Division.

Perhaps it is an over-interpretation of the motifs, which may simply be *Indian Cavalry & Infantry*.



Indian Infantry in France, 1915.

Fra Indian Cavalry Officer 1914-15 af Roly Grimshaw, D.J.
Costello (Publishers) Ltd., Tunbridge Wells, Kent,
1986, ISBN 0-7104-3027-2.

The brightly colored turbans and sashes were used for parade use, and may have been taken to the front, where while the khaki colored turban was used for field use, and apart from the brightly colored ornaments, the drawing gives a good impression of the uniform at the front in 1914.

The soldiers may be from the 15th Ludhiana Sikhs and the regiment's distinctive circular badge is seen repeated on the above postcard.

Name changes

1903

1922

15th Ludhiana Sikhs 2nd Bn., 11th Sikh Regiment (Ludhiana Sikhs)

Sources

1. *India's Army* af Donovan Jackson, Purnell and Sons, London 1940.
2. *The Army of India and Its Evolution - An Official Report* published in Calcutta 1924 and reprinted by Picton Publishing, Chippenham/Wiltshire 1992, ISBN 0-948251-69-9.
3. *The Wonder Book of Soldiers* af Harry Golding (red.), Ward, Lock & Co., London, ca. 1940.
4. *The Indian Army* by Boris Mollo, Blanford Press, Poole/Dorset 1981, ISBN 0-7137-1074-8.
5. *The Indian Army 1914-1947* af Ian Summer, Osprey Elite 72, London 2001, ISBN 1-84176- 196-6.
6. *An Assemblage of Indian Army Soldiers & Uniforms, from original paintings by the late Chater Paul Chater*, af Michael Glover, Perpetua Press, London 1973, ISBN 0-903070-04- 9.
7. *Sepoys in the Trenches - The Indian Corps on the Western Front 1914-1915* af Gordon Corrigan, Spelmout Limited, Staplehurst/Kent 1999, ISBN 1-86227-054-6.
8. *Ypres - The First Battle 1914* af Ian F.W. Becket, Pearson Education Ltd., Edinburgh 2004, ISBN 0-582-50612-3.

Per Finsted



Indian Army, Palestine 1917.

Drawn by AE Haswell Miller, c. 1920. From Source 4.

From left to right: 123rd Outram's Rifles, 121st Pioneers, Mysore Lancers (Imperial Service Troops),
1st King George's Own Sappers and Miners and Army Bearer Corps.

The Army Bearer Corps (created 1901) was part of the Indian Medical Services and set up specifically for the purpose of transporting the wounded. Read more about the history of the Indian medical corps here [Army Medical Corps](#).

The corps, which grew from 3,500 men in 1914 to 25,708 in 1918, was composed of soldiers from many different castes and religions. The basic criterion for recruitment was that the soldier should belong to a population group from which a Hindu would receive water. (Source 7.) See also e.g. *Themes in Indian Society* for a discussion of the particular challenges to religious purity.

To note:

1) From the book *Armies of India*; the plate was at one time for sale at MILPRINTS, from whose catalogue

Machine Translated by Google
the image originates.

2) An Indian engineering company spoke in 1914 of approx. 200 men. English personnel: 4 officers and 2 NCOs; Indian personnel: 3 officers and 190 non-commissioned officers and privates. The company's equipment was transported on mules.