

Resource Pack 2



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Task

In your group: Your aim is to create a poster that visually represents the information you have been provided and can easily show this information. Your poster should as visual as possible - you can include as many sketches, diagrams, graphs, maps, numbers, symbols, pictures, graphs, cartoons as you want. However you may only include 15 words. A photo of a newspaper article has been provided for your information you may use it in your display. 2 Photos have also been included for your use.

Your Information

The Martial Races

Since the late nineteenth century, the recruitment process in the Indian army was based on a 'class system'. In the decades before the war, the British military had also recruited from the north and northwest of India, such as the Punjab, due to the belief that its people were more suited for battle. Among the reasons was the rugged terrain of the area, which may have made them more, prepared for the physical hardships of war?

'Pressgang' Methods

By 1916, the allies were in desperate need of more Indian soldiers. A new policy meant that Indian units would fight on the secondary theatres of war, leaving the main British army at the Western Front. Small offers of money began to be made to potential recruits, which increased those who came forward. The rules also became less stringent: usual protocols on height and weight were lowered. But there was also much forced recruitment, particularly in the Punjab. While conscription wasn't applied, pressure was applied on Indian officials to fill huge quotas. As a result, recruitment methods began to include kidnapping. Women were even taken hostage until their male family members enlisted to the army.

Muslims In British News

As the war kept on, British newspapers began to praise their heroic Muslim soldiers, particularly as German anti-British propaganda was targeting Muslims in particular. Newspapers also began to take interest in the Muslims in the Brighton Pavilion, and their seemingly 'exotic' news became a common interest to many. Newspapers took real interest in the Indians in Brighton, publishing many articles about 'Our Indians', with the papers selling in significant numbers.

Profile

Michael O'Dwyer

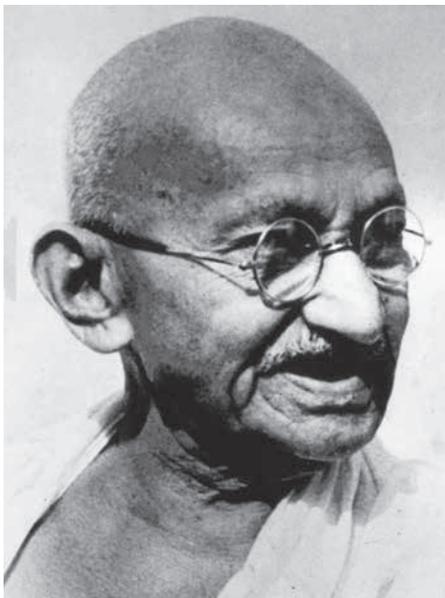
Much of the unethical recruitment strategies were linked with Michael O'Dwyer, the Lieutenant Governor of the Punjab between 1913 and 1919. O'Dwyer had implemented martial law in the region, placing the military at the head of the state. He attempts to justify such actions in his memoir – *India as I Knew It* – but there is no denying that his decisions caused huge unrest in the Punjab region, leading to riots, and under his watch, the killing of hundreds of Indian civilians by the military. O'Dwyer, who played a significant role in recruitment for the war, has now become associated with brutality,

Mahatma Gandhi

One of the most famous recruiters was Mahatma Gandhi, who played a key part in recruiting thousands of soldiers in the Kheda region of India. Gandhi made a deal with the Viceroy at the time, writing to him in a letter: 'I will be your recruiting agent for putting together an Indian army for the First World War'.



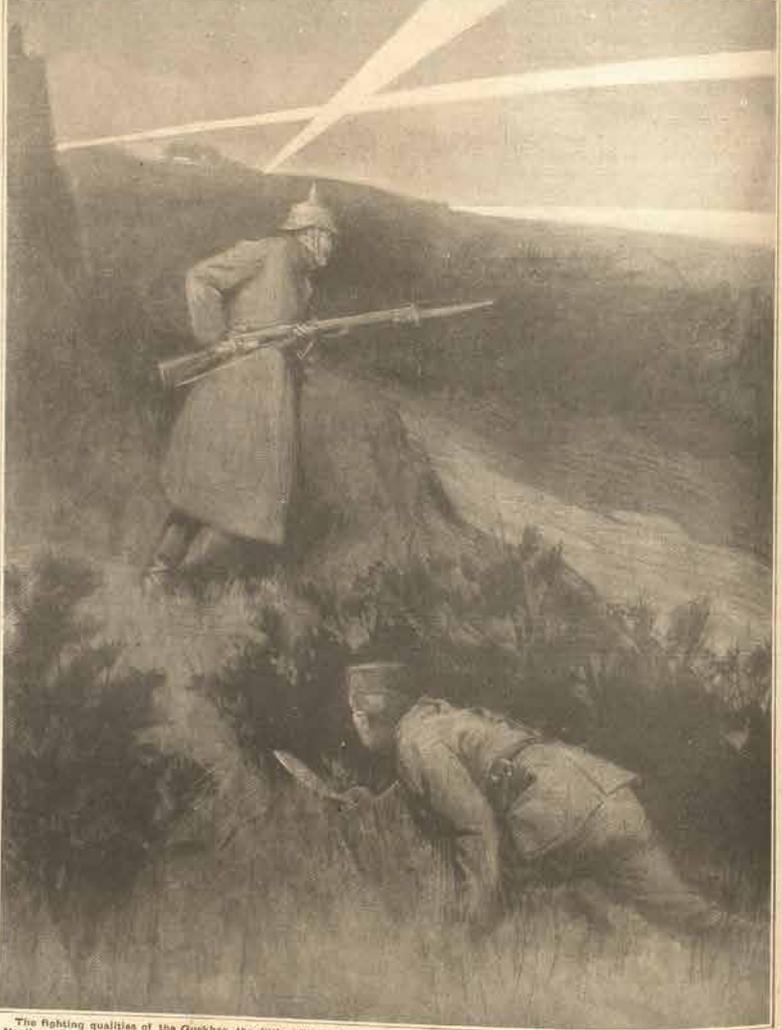
Portrait of Sir Michael O'Dwyer
(National Portrait Gallery)



Portrait of Mahatma Gandhi
(Public Domain)

The War Illustrated, 7th November, 1914. Page 80

The Terror by Night: Our Gurkhas at Work



The illustration depicts a Gurkha soldier in a dark, mountainous landscape at night. The soldier is wearing a traditional Gurkha uniform, including a turban and a long tunic. He is carrying a rifle and a large knife. The scene is illuminated by a bright light source, possibly a searchlight or a flare, which creates a strong contrast and casts long shadows. The soldier is in a crouching position, ready for action. In the background, another soldier is visible, lying on the ground, suggesting a recent battle or a tactical maneuver.

The fighting qualities of the Gurkhas, the little hillmen from Northern India who form one of the most efficient sections of our Indian Army, are well known. In addition to a rifle, the Gurkha carries a keen knife with a broad, fish-shaped blade. This knife he can throw for some distance with deadly accuracy, or he can use it at close quarters with terrible effect. With a cat-like noiselessness the Gurkha, knife in hand or in teeth, can glide through the grass until he is close to the isolated outpost, as seen in the picture, and then comes the fatal spring and slash that invariably adds one to the enemy's mortality list.

Newspaper of War, WW1 (National Army Museum)