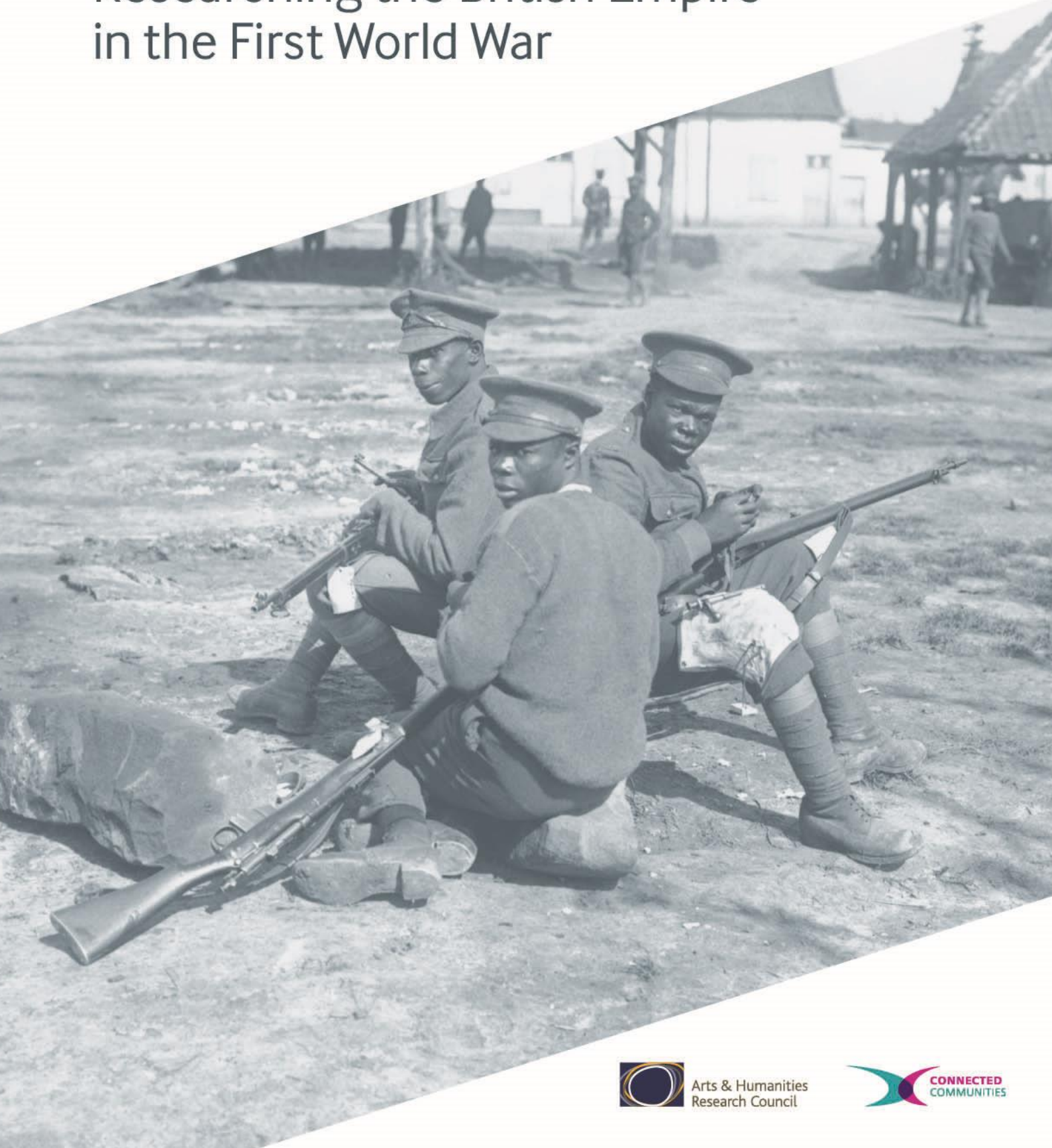




Researching the British Empire in the First World War



Arts & Humanities
Research Council





RESEARCHING THE BRITISH EMPIRE IN THE FIRST WORLD WAR A RESOURCE GUIDE

In 2012 IWM (Imperial War Museums) led the project *Whose Remembrance?*, an Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC)-funded investigation into the state of research on the contribution made by colonial troops and others recruited in the two world wars, and the understanding and availability of this research to audiences and communities today. A specially commissioned film was created to showcase the study's findings, which has since been shown at public dissemination events across the United Kingdom and internationally.

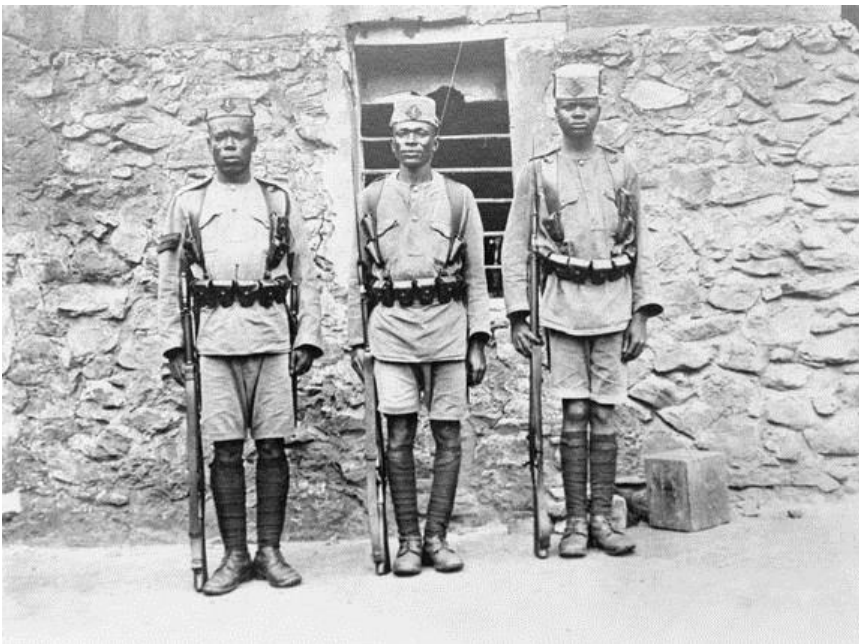
Following many enquiries from community groups in response to the publication of *Whose Remembrance?* and the subsequent film, we have created this guide to help those wishing to conduct their own research in this area.

The scope of the guide has been limited to the First World War, in view of the large amount of public attention on the centenary of the conflict. Additionally, the Heritage Lottery Fund have launched grants to help groups, communities and organisations mark the centenary by exploring, conserving and sharing the heritage of the First World War, from memorials, buildings and sites, to photographs, letters and literature, ranging from £3,000 to over £100,000.

Alongside this guide we have also established 'The British Empire at War' forum – an online discussion group on the First World War Centenary Partnership website, focusing on stories from across the British Empire during the First World War. Here community groups can share their research and highlight any forthcoming events or new discoveries. Organisations can sign up as a member of the Centenary Partnership for free, by visiting: <http://www.1914.org/partnership/>.

We hope you find this guide useful and we would be pleased to know more about how you are using it in your work. Please contact research@iwm.org.uk with any feedback.

Africa was the site of the first military action by British land forces in the First World War. Alhaji Grunshi of the Gold Coast Regiment fired the first shot on 12 August 1914¹ in the German colony of Togoland. Grunshi survived the war to become a regimental sergeant major decorated with the Military Medal, Distinguished Conduct Medal and a Mention in Despatches. The first confirmed Commonwealth casualty under fire was his comrade Private Bai, who was killed on 15 August 1914, probably at Agbeluvoe, 50 miles north of the city of Lomé, capital of Togo. A reasonable amount is known about Alhaji Grunshi because of his decorations and a photograph of him exists at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alhaji_Grunshi. Virtually nothing is known of Bai – only one name is given – although his name is recorded on paper and online by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. Bai's name does not appear on any memorial, however, for no African names were engraved on the memorial to the Gold Coast Regiment's fallen at Kumasi in Ghana.

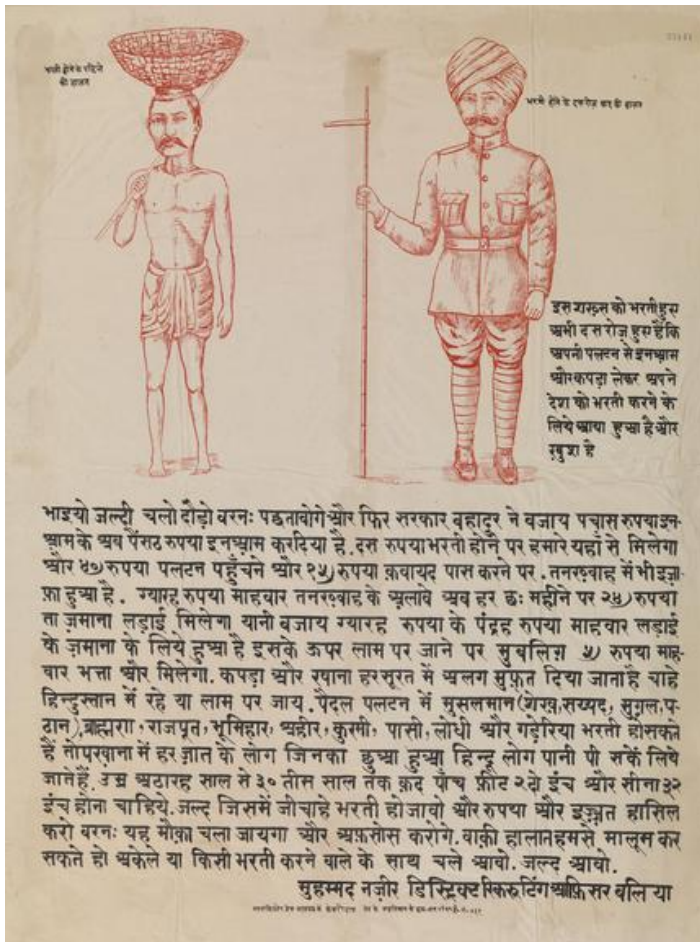


Men of the 1/4th Battalion King's African Rifles at Njombe, German East Africa © IWM (Q 34470)

Traditionally the First World War brings to mind mud, trenches and the Somme, but men from across the Colonial Empires served in China, Africa, Egypt and Palestine, Gallipoli, Macedonia and Mesopotamia. Both world wars were global events that drew on manpower from every continent and were fought on a far wider scale than just Europe. Britain's colonies provided vital resources and their ports, airfields and sea-routes were vital to Britain's strategic interests. But it was the people of the British Empire who provided its greatest contribution. India fielded the largest volunteer army in both wars with around 1.4 million serving in the First World War and over 1.8 million in the Second World War. Almost 140,000 Chinese labourers served in France during the First World War under the British and French governments. Over 2 million Africans served in the war under the French, British and German flags. Over 16,000 men from the West Indies served in the First World War.

The object of this resource guide is to provide information on what is held in the collections of Imperial War Museums and other institutions, and how this material can be used. It aims to explain some of the difficulties that might be found during research, provide advice for working in this area, and suggest helpful reading material and websites.

¹ *The History of the Royal West African Frontier Force*, A Haywood and F A S Clarke (Aldershot: Gale and Polden, 1964)



Hindi language recruiting poster from India dating from the First World War

© IWM (IWM PST 12583)

The left hand caption reads: 'Before enlistment...' The right hand caption reads: 'Ten days after enlistment... This person has been a recruit for ten days and with his bonus and his uniform he is going to enlist others of his locality and he is happy.'

The main body of the text reads:

'Brothers, rush, run to enlist or you will regret it later. The Sarkar Bahadur [the honourable Government] has now raised the enlistment bonus from Rs.50/- to Rs.65/-. You will get Rs.10 on enlistment, Rs.40/- when you join your regiment, and Rs.15/- on completion of training. The pay has also been increased. In addition to the monthly wage of Rs.11/- you will get Rs.24/ every six months for the period of the war. Your monthly wage therefore is not Rs.11/- but Rs.15/-. In addition on going on active service you will get a monthly allowance of Rs.5/-. Clothes and food are free whether you are in India or have been sent to the war.

The following can enlist in the infantry: Muslims (Shaikh, Saiyyid, Mughal, Pathan), Brahmin, Rajput, Bhumihar, Ahir, Kurmi, Pasi, Lodhi and Gaderiya. In the artillery anyone can enlist from whose hands Hindus would accept a drink of water. The age should be between 18-30 years, height 5ft 2" and chest 32".

Enlist speedily in whichever unit you choose, and earn rupees and respect, or you will rue the loss of this opportunity. For further details contact us. Come on your own or with some recruiter. Come quickly. Mohammad Nazir, District Recruiting Officer, Ballia.'

The text has kindly been translated by Professor Radhika Singha, who comments that it provides an interesting insight into the widening social arc of recruitment, specifically appealing to lower castes. You can read more on Professor Singha's work on p.13.

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1. General Observations

- The twenty-first century world is very different from that of 1914. Unfortunately it is the case that in old photo captions, catalogue entries and even within the collections themselves such as in medal inscriptions or painting titles, language is used that will sound insensitive to modern ears, often patronising or even racist. To study history effectively, you need to try to understand how a situation was perceived at the time. What makes this area of history particularly interesting to study, is the fact that the treatment of colonial troops during the war usually influenced the liberation movements of the post-war years.
- When searching through catalogue entries it is necessary to remember that names have changed over the years and entries may not have been updated to reflect this change – for example, reference may be made to ‘Gold Coast’ as well as to ‘Ghana’, to ‘Salisbury, Rhodesia’ as well as to ‘Harare, Zimbabwe’.
- Records – especially service records – were usually retained in the country of origin. Sometimes these have been well preserved (e.g. in South Africa), but often they can be difficult to access or may not have survived.
- Most of the countries concerned have become independent or have had changes of government. There are often ‘challenging histories’ to be negotiated, where after independence, those who had served with the British were often regarded as having been on the ‘wrong side’. As a result, information about the colonial period was in some cases destroyed.
- Independence and subsequent changes of regime may have brought in different names and different borders, which can complicate research.
- Under British governance, English would have been the official language but this will frequently have changed after independence. English was the language of the officer class but items in the first language of the country may also be held in institutions. Radhika Singha’s on-going work on the Indian Labour Corps, which is throwing light on this previously poorly documented formation, is an example of this.



Indian Concert Party at the Royal Army Ordnance Corps Theatre in Baghdad, 1917
© IWM (HU 95840)

- As with all archives, the recording of names can also cause problems, due to the use of shortened or anglicised names, or variations in transliteration, so it can be useful to try variant spellings, ordering and check for international name variations.
- Many of the communities from whom soldiers and labourers were recruited had low literacy rates, with an oral tradition being more common than paper accounts that could not be read.
- The history of the First World War was written up principally by historians from elite backgrounds, who lived in a socially much more stratified age than we do today. Their view of events was usually one-sided, but there is still much that can be learned or inferred from it.
- The British officers were often dedicated to their men and there were frequently good relationships between the two. Only the top military graduates were selected to serve in the sought-after Indian Army, and they had to learn and speak at least Hindustani or Urdu – knowledge of the language and culture of their men was essential.
- Officers and civil servants would be at the top of the social pyramid with those involved with trade and business below them, and missionaries at the lower end. The term ‘white officer class’, which has historically been used to refer to the top of the military hierarchy in the First World War, is a generalisation. There were also Indian officers in the Indian Army (commissioned by the Viceroy rather than the King). The military is a very stratified organisation and British non-commissioned officers were also a feature of many colonial regiments. British Army regiments were also stationed all over the world and British rank and file did not hold an elevated position in society.
- Confusion can be caused with the names and correct designations of regiments. For example, the Indian Army had large reorganisations in 1903 and 1922 and was then divided between India and Pakistan on partition in 1947. There is often confusion between the West India Regiment (originally raised in 1795, and disbanded in 1927) and the British West Indies Regiment, which served only in the First World War.



Indian labourers and butchers from Manipur at work near Arras, 20 October 1917
 © IWM (Q 6120)

- Experiences of service varied enormously. For those who served as soldiers in an infantry regiment there will usually be published histories of regiments (though, as with the British Army, these seldom name individuals) but the stories of the many men who served as labourers is less well documented. Labourers were given lesser forms of tangible recognition – in the First World War they were issued with a bronze British War Medal rather than the silver, which went to soldiers.
- Many men from the Empire (especially from Bengal) served in the Merchant Navy. In the First and Second World Wars respectively, 3,000 and 4,700 British-flagged ships were sunk and many lascars (peoples of Asia or Africa contracted from Asia) died or were taken prisoner. After their service some settled in port areas, providing facilities for their countrymen when they docked and also forming a vanguard for communities that grew up in these areas.
- While the men were away at war, the women had to cope on the home front without them. Interesting work is emerging drawing on Indian sources depicting the impact of the First World War on women's lives in places such as Punjab where there was very heavy recruiting.



Crew of the SS *Chybassa* – a merchant ship of the British India Line – in 1917
 © IWM (Q 92607)

2. Tips for Researching the Colonial Experience of the First World War: an Expert's View

The community historian Stephen Bourne has worked with IWM for many years, delivering talks on the experiences of black people during both world wars. We asked him to share his thoughts on researching this challenging but rewarding topic.



Q

If you wanted to do a project on the colonial experience of the First World War, how would you go about finding a topic?

A

To begin you could choose a particular episode of the First World War to research.

An example might be the Battle of Neuve Chapelle in 1915 during which the Allied forces suffered 11,200 casualties (7,000 British and 4,200 Indian) or the British West Indies Regiment mutiny at Taranto in 1918.

Undertaking research focused on a place can also be rewarding – for example by investigating the experiences of Black and Ethnic Minority (BEM) peoples in your nearest city during the First World War. Visit the Black Cultural Archives in London (www.bcaheritage.co.uk) and work with your local library. Ask if there is a local history library and encourage them to think about BEM history and initiate a relevant collection, if they have not already done so.

For individuals, I would suggest starting with a personal, anecdotal approach, for example, by thinking about your family and trying to **draw a simple family tree**. With access to the internet, it has never been easier to undertake genealogical research.

I would recommend using a website such as www.ancestry.co.uk (there are many others) for your research. This is a subscription service but often public libraries provide free access (when searching through records it obviously helps if you have an unusual surname). It can also be useful to speak to relatives – if you have older members of your family make an effort to contact them in person, by letter, email or telephone and record their memories, even if they live overseas. **IWM's Lives of the First World War** is an interactive online platform where you can record details of an individual's service, as well as access the stories of over 8 million individuals from many different backgrounds who took part in the conflict (<https://livesofthefirstworldwar.org/>).

If you are unable to establish a family connection with the First World War, or you wish to undertake research as a group, it may be easier to **choose one or two individuals who you can focus your research on**. Perhaps look through Richard Smith's book *Jamaican Volunteers in the First World War* (Manchester University Press 2004), for inspiration. Back issues of the magazine *West Africa* which ran from 1917, also include names of First World War soldiers and an archive is available at SOAS (The School of Oriental and African Studies), University of London. *The Jamaica Gleaner*, a publication established in 1834, holds relevant information and past issues of the paper are available (for a fee) from their digital archive: <http://gleaner.newspaperarchive.com/>. Similarly, British publications such as *The Pan-African*, *The African Times and Orient Review*, and *The African Telegraph*, can shed light on individual colonial experiences of the First World War. Further information on the black British press can be found in Ionie Benjamin's *The Black Press in Britain* (Stoke-on-Trent: Trentham Books, 1995). The British Library has significant holdings in the languages of Asia, the Middle East and Africa and many newspaper reports made during the First World War can be found in the Asia, Pacific & Africa Collections.

Don't be put off if you follow one individual's story so far and it peters out. That happens a lot. To collect a group of stories can make for a very rewarding project.

Q

How can you ensure the colonial experiences of the First World War are presented in a balanced way?

A

As with all histories there are a range of different viewpoints and experiences and it's important to capture these. A good example of this can be found in *Mutiny* (1999), a documentary produced by Sweet Patootee for Channel 4, which explores the role of the British West Indies Regiment in the First World War. What makes the documentary so compelling are the numerous interviews with veterans of the conflict residing in the Caribbean. These veterans all had different feelings towards their involvement in the First World War with some citing disillusionment and humiliation but others left feeling an overwhelming sense of pride at having served in the conflict. By recording these different perspectives, the producers got a balanced point of view.

Q

Have you found it useful to look at records of industry when undertaking research into the black British population?

A

Yes, this is a rich area to look at. Black people living in Britain had to be resourceful and as a result they often had many different jobs. The black population in major ports such as Liverpool and Cardiff was particularly high and men were often employed as merchant seamen. However, there was black representation throughout British society and those at the higher tiers included doctors, lawyers and wealthy African traders. In the article 'John Alcindor (1873-1924): a Migrant's Biography' (*Immigrants & Minorities* 6:2, 1987), Jeffrey Green recounts the story of a Trinidad-born doctor who served with the Red Cross during the First World War and was awarded their medal and later went on to lead the black-rights group the African Progress Union. Green's book *Black Edwardians: Black People in Britain 1901-1914* (London: Routledge, 1998) also provides a useful overview of what it was like for black people in the period before the outbreak of the First World War. There is also a great deal of information to be found on Green's website www.jeffreygreen.co.uk.

As far as we know, there were no black British nurses in the First World War and in general there were very few opportunities for black women at this time. Black women in Britain often became seamstresses or entertainers. One interesting example is Mabel Mercer (1900–1984), an English-born singer of mixed race, who joined a music hall troupe and worked throughout the First World War. Later in her career she became one of the most influential singers of the twentieth century.

Q

If you came across a really interesting photograph from the First World War, would this be a valuable way of accessing the history?

A

Definitely. The whole colonial experience of the First World War needs to benefit from much more in-depth research, and often photographs or film clips can be a starting point for this. Many of the First World War army records were destroyed in an air raid in the Second World War, so any snippets of evidence are even more valuable. I would suggest taking one piece of evidence, like IWM's photo of British West Indies Regiment men cleaning their rifles on the Albert-Amiens Road, from September 1916 (as featured on the cover) and 'burrowing' into it – asking questions about the picture and what it is showing.

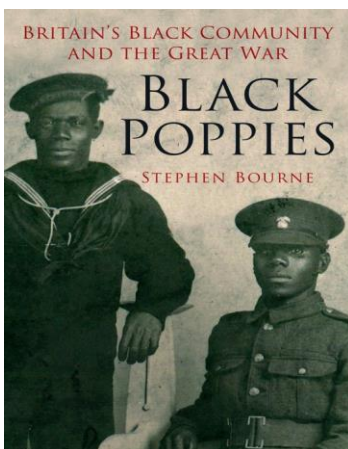
Q

Is there room for imaginative histories – e.g. creative responses such as plays, fictional stories, musical and artistic responses?

A

I would certainly think so. If you took a large British city like Liverpool and followed the story of a black family, with the father a merchant seaman, it would be interesting to explore what their journey through the First World War would have been like, possibly ending with the 1919 riots.

Stephen Bourne is the author of *Black Poppies: Britain's Black Community and the Great War* (London: The History Press, 2014) (<http://www.stephenbourne.co.uk>)



Questions asked by Suzanne Bardgett, IWM Head of Research.

Interview transcribed and edited by Emily Peirson-Webber, IWM Research Manager.

More advice from leading researchers and insights into their work in the field



Dr Santanu Das

Reader in English Literature, King's College London

More than 4 million non-white men – from Asia to Africa to the Caribbean and Pacific Islands – were drafted into the armies of Europe and America during the First World War. What has fired my research is to excavate and understand the experience of these people, with a focus on South Asian sepoys, through a diverse range of material – objects, photographs, sound-recordings, letters, memoirs. It is often helpful to focus on a particular event, person or even ethnic or national group and piece together the more intimate story from diverse sources – relevant books and bibliographies (listed in this document), the net, museum collections, and war memorials. Often there is more material than you think!



Clifford J Pereira FRGS

Freelance Consultant and Researcher

Inspired by my own family history, my research in London over the last 15 years has been focused on the employment of seamen of African and Asian origin in the Royal Navy from the eighteenth century onwards. This has led to some interesting work on Africans and Arabs in the Royal Navy in the Indian Ocean during the abolition of slavery. From this basis I have specialised in looking at the roles of seamen who hail from the former Portuguese colony of Goa in the Royal and Merchant Navy in the two world wars. I am now based in Vancouver, Canada.



David Killingray

Professor Emeritus, Goldsmiths London

I am interested in the interface of global and local studies of the First World War. At the global level I continue to research and write on the contribution of colonial subjects as soldiers and labourers to what was not only a world but also an imperial conflict. Non-European manpower (very few women were active participants, although invariably they were ‘victims’) from the European empires was employed to labour and to fight for distant rulers in a war that was not their own. At the other end of the spectrum, and using the skills from both African and British local history, I examine the links between British localities and a global conflict.



Professor Radhika Singha

Centre for Historical Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University

I wanted to explore the particular texture of the war experience for the 563,369 non-combatants from India who supported Allied efforts in the First World War. Among this group were regimental followers, auxiliary departments such as the Mule Corps and the Army Bearer Corps, and the Indian Labour and Porter Corps. I suggest that the dynamic of colonial frontier-making and the circulation of labour, including military labour, within India and around the Indian Ocean can help us to locate India more centrally in the First World War instead of viewing it as an external event to which she ‘contributed’. My work has benefitted from colleagues who have encouraged me to bring labour history into conversation with military history.



Patrick Vernon OBE

Clore Fellow and founder of Every Generation Media

I am truly passionate about discovering more about the African and Caribbean contribution to the First and Second World Wars, as well as modern day conflicts and I have developed a number of projects and activities connected to this. My work includes *A Charmed Life*, a documentary on the life of Eddie Martin Noble, who served in the Second World War; articles in *The Voice* and *The Guardian* on the black contribution in the world wars, as well as numerous workshops and events over the last few years at the National Archives, BFI, IWM London, National Portrait Gallery and local archives. I am currently working on research exploring the post traumatic impact of war and mental health services for Black and Minority Ethnic ex-service personnel and looking at monuments, family genealogy and hidden narratives of the African and Caribbean contribution to the world wars.



Guoqi Xu

Professor of History, University of Hong Kong

I am Professor of History at the University of Hong Kong and I have been researching China's role in the First World War for over 20 years. My research has involved using many different sources including archives in Europe, Asia, USA, Canada, and elsewhere. My books have explored Chinese workers in the First World War, and China's pursuit of a new national identity and internationalisation during this period. At present I am engaged in research for the following two works: *Wei Wenming Chu Zheng: diyici shijie dazhan zhong xixian zhanchang de zhongguoren jiqi lücheng* (Journey in the name of Civilizations: Chinese in the Western Front during WWI) (Beijing: Inter-Continental Press) and *Asia and the Great War*, under contract for Oxford University Press.

3. IWM

The Imperial War Museum was established in 1917 to form a record and memorial of the efforts of Britain and her Empire between 1914 and 1918. It was originally to be called the National War Museum, but the name was changed at the request of what were then known as ‘the Dominions’ (self-governing territories under the sovereignty of the British crown), to reflect the wider involvement that had taken place. The practicalities meant that, while the museum acquired what it could, it could not systematically cover all the Empire’s efforts. There is an excellent collection of Indian regimental histories, for example, and some early publications documented colonial involvement, such as *Jamaica’s Part in the Great War, 1914-1918* by Frank Cundall (1925) and *The Maoris in the Great War: A History of the New Zealand Native Contingent and Pioneer Battalion* by James Cowan (1926). However other stories are less completely told, especially after the museum’s remit broadened to cover the Second World War and later conflicts, including independence struggles. We are working to expand our collections to fill the gaps, and the centenary of the First World War offers an excellent opportunity for community groups and individuals to help uncover new stories. This is a popular field of current research and this greater interest is widening our knowledge of a neglected area.



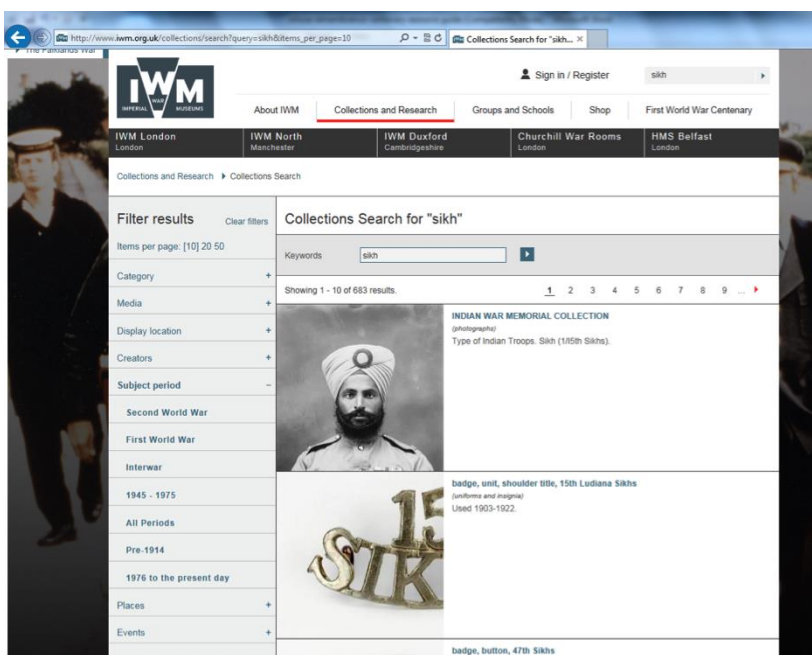
MCMXIV		MCMXVIII	
THE BRITISH FIGHTING FORCES			
THE ROYAL NAVY			
PERSONNEL 15 TH AUGUST 1914	147,667		
TOTAL ENLISTMENTS 1914-1918	407,310		
KILLED OR DIED OF WOUNDS	34,654		
THE BRITISH ARMY			
PERSONNEL 1 ST AUGUST 1914	735,514		
ENLISTMENTS, 1914-1918 -			
ENGLAND	400,155		
WALES	27,224		
SCOTLAND	17,515		
IRELAND	14,302		
CANADA	20,511		
AUSTRALIA	410,509		
NEW ZEALAND	129,211		
SOUTH AFRICA	150,074		
NEWFOUNDLAND	9,820		
INDIA	13,380,000		
EAST AFRICA	76,300		
SIASSALAND	10,800		
RHODESIA	7,500		
NIGERIA	14,507		
COED COAST	102,871		
SIERRA LEONE	694		
GAMBIA	371		
WEST INDIES			
BRITISH HONDURAS	15,950		
BRITISH GUIANA			
BERMUDA	360		
CYPRUS	4,000		
MALTA	3,000		
TOTAL ENLISTMENTS OF THE BRITISH ARMY 1914 TO 1918:			
8,818,890			
TOTAL OF: KILLED IN ACTION, DIED FROM WOUNDS, OR DIED AS PRISONERS OF WAR			
908,371			
THE ROYAL AIR FORCE			
PERSONNEL 1914	1,000		
TOTAL ENLISTMENTS, 1914-1918	293,532		
KILLED OR DIED OF WOUNDS	4,080		
GRAND TOTAL OF MEN ENLISTED IN THE NAVY, ARMY, AND AIR FORCE UP TO NOVEMBER, 1918			
9,669,311			
DIED FOR THE EMPIRE			
1,069,825			

The British Empire Roll of Honour, bedecked with flags and wreaths at Crystal Palace, when the Imperial War Museum was situated there between 1920 and 1924 © IWM (Q 37052)

A close-up (right) shows the numbers of men from across the Empire who enlisted in the First World War © IWM (Q 36941).

4. Using IWM's Online Catalogue

There is a useful online catalogue on IWM's website at www.iwm.org.uk. The 'Collections and Research' tab at the top of the screen will take you to the Collections pages. Increasing numbers of digitised images and some interviews are available onscreen and for in-depth research you can make an appointment to visit one of our Research Rooms. Digitised material (i.e. entries with attached images or sound) automatically comes to the front of the listing, so please be aware that what you are looking for may not be digitised and may be at the end of a long listing. Documents and books are available in the Research Room (Monday–Friday, 10am–5pm) as is sound material, while photographs can be viewed in the Photography Archive Visitors Room in the All Saints Building (Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 10am–5pm). Researchers may also view art, exhibits and film but appointments should be made some time in advance. Visit <http://www.iwm.org.uk/ask> or call 020 7416 5342 for more information about this.



Once on the 'Collections and Research' page, you can utilise the tabs on the left hand side of the page.

- Click on 'Collections Search' to reveal the search box where you can input your term – keep it simple for best results. Try a variety of different terms if the first one yields few results.
- Often there will be a very large number of hits. These can be narrowed down by using the tabs on the left-hand side.
- 'Subject period' enables you to choose between a number of periods including the First World War and Second World War.
- 'Category' will allow you to select a type of material, such as photographs or personal papers. Uniforms and insignia will often show you the cap badge or divisional flash that may have been worn, and you may have the option to listen to part of an interview with someone who served in a particular theatre or unit.
- 'Place' may also be useful here as you can pinpoint the geographical location that is of particular interest to you.

- As our collection grows it is always worth making repeat visits to the catalogue.
- There is a selection of optimised photographs from IWM's collections relating to colonial involvement in the First World War, which are available for community groups in the 'Resources' section on the Centenary Partnership extranet. Organisations can sign up as a member of the Centenary Partnership for free, by visiting: <http://www.1914.org/partnership/>.
- If you can't find what you are looking for, contact the Collections Enquiry Service at www.iwm.org.uk/ask or 020 7416 5342. Our knowledgeable staff should be able to point you in the right direction.

5. Useful Information Sheets

The only detailed information sheet available at the moment is listed below. More will follow in due course.

Tracing West Indian Service Personnel (<http://archive.iwm.org.uk/upload/pdf/info.48.pdf>)



Men of the British West Indies Regiment in camp on the Albert-Amiens Road, September 1916
© IWM (Q 1202)

6. Other Institutions

Librarians, archivists and curators can be extremely helpful and like to share information. As well as being able to get the best out of their collections, they are usually aware of who might be doing research in a particular field and also what might be available elsewhere. Local history archives and local studies collections in libraries should have holdings relating to local communities.

Access to Archives

For collections in England and Wales

www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/a2a/

Black Cultural Archives

Founded in 1981, the Black Cultural Archives' mission is to collect, preserve and celebrate the heritage and history of Black people in Britain. They opened the UK's first dedicated Black heritage centre in July 2014, and their growing archive collection includes personal papers, organisational records, rare books, photographs and a collection of small objects.

1 Windrush Square, Brixton, London SW2 1EF

020 7582 8516

www.bcaheritage.org.uk

Bodleian Library of Commonwealth and African Studies at Rhodes House

The Bodleian Library of Commonwealth and African Studies opened in 1929 and covers the history of the Commonwealth and Sub-Saharan Africa, but not the Indian sub-continent and Burma (which is covered by the Oriental Institute Library).

Rhodes House, South Parks Road, Oxford OX1 3RG

01865 70908

www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/rhodes

British Empire and Commonwealth Museum Collection

This collection is now held at the Bristol Record Office. This is also the home of the Bristol Black Archives Partnership.

Bristol Record Office, 'B' Bond Warehouse, Smeaton Road, Bristol BS1 6XN

01179 224224

www.bristol.gov.uk/page/leisure-and-culture/british-empire-and-commonwealth-collection

British Library

The Asia and Africa Department of the British Library holds useful material including the records of the India Office

96 Euston Road, London NW1 2DB

020 7412 7873

www.bl.uk

Centre of African Studies Library

Established in 1965, and one of the world's leading centres for study of Africa

Alison Richard Building, 7 West Road, Cambridge CB3 9DT

01223 334398

www.library.african.cam.ac.uk

Centre of South Asian Studies

University of Cambridge cross-disciplinary research centre concerning South and Southeast Asia
Alison Richard Building, 7 West Road, Cambridge CB3 9DT
01223 338094
www.s-asian.cam.ac.uk

Gurkha Museum

This museum tells the story of Gurkha service in the Indian Army and then the British Army, following partition in 1947
Peninsula Barracks, Romsey Road, Winchester SO23 8TS
01962 842832
www.thegurkhamuseum.co.uk/

Institute of Commonwealth Studies

The only postgraduate academic institution in the United Kingdom devoted to the study of the Commonwealth
School of Advanced Study, University of London, 2nd Floor, South Block, Senate House, Malet Street, London WC1E 7HU
020 7862 8844
<http://commonwealth.sas.ac.uk>

National Army Museum

Although this museum is dedicated to the history of the British Army, it had its origins in the Indian Army Room at Sandhurst, so has good collections relating to the Indian Army and all aspects of the Empire and Commonwealth.
Royal Hospital Road, Chelsea, London SW3 4HT
020 7730 0717
www.nam.ac.uk

National Maritime Museum

Extensive holdings, especially relating to the Merchant Navy
Romney Road, Greenwich, London SE10 9NF
020 8312 6516
www.rmg.co.uk

National Register of Archives

Offers a useful way of locating collections right across the UK
www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/nra/

Royal Asiatic Society of Great Britain and Ireland

A forum for those who are interested in the history, languages, cultures and religions of Asia to meet and exchange ideas. It offers lectures and seminars and provides facilities for research and publishing.
14 Stephenson Way, London NW1 2HD
020 7388 4539
www.royalasiaticsociety.org

Royal Commonwealth Society Library Collections

Founded in 1868, the Royal Commonwealth Society Library Collections moved to the Cambridge University Library in the early 1990s
Cambridge University Library, West Road, Cambridge CB3 9DR
01223 33146 (Wednesdays and Thursdays only – email contact preferred at racs@lib.cam.ac.uk)
www.lib.cam.ac.uk/deptserv/racs/

Royal Geographical Society (with IBG)

The Royal Geographical Society has widened understanding of how 'discoveries' by Western explorers in earlier centuries relied to a large extent on the knowledge of local guides and other intermediaries.

1 Kensington Gore, London SW7 2AR

020 7591 3000

www.rgs.org

School of Oriental and African Studies

The world's leading institution for the study of Asia, Africa and the Middle East

University of London, Thornhaugh Street, Russell Square, London WC1H 0XG

020 7637 2388

www.soas.ac.uk

Sudan Archive at Durham

Founded in 1957, the year following Sudanese independence. Some digitised material is online.

Special Collections, Palace Green Library, Palace Green, Durham DH1 3RN

0191 334 297

www.dur.ac.uk/library/asc/sudan/

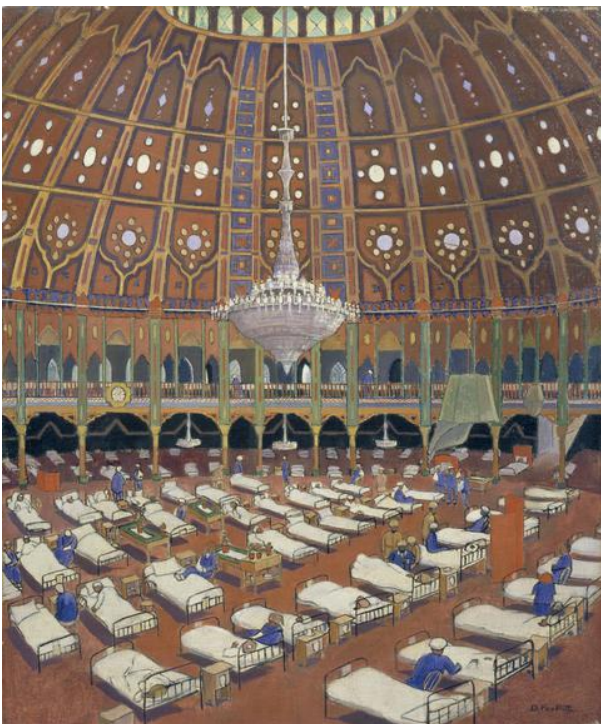
The National Archives

The repository of official archives. Material is arranged according to the government department that originated it. There is an online catalogue and guidance on how to use the collections on the website.

Ruskin Avenue, Kew, Richmond, Surrey TW9 4DU

020 8876 3444

www.nationalarchives.gov.uk



***Indian Army Wounded in Hospital in the Dome, Brighton*, 1919 by Douglas Fox-Pitt**

This was painted in 1919, long after the Indian soldiers had left the Pavilion in early 1916. It was hoped that the overblown architecture and exotic surroundings would make the Indians feel at home, and it was one of the few places where the imperial contribution to the war could be directly seen by the British public © IWM (IWM ART 323)

7. Useful Websites

Africa and the First World War

A network for the international study of Africa during the First World War, promoting connection and collaborative research between members

africagreatwar.wordpress.com

Africa Centre

A charity that promotes Africa's cultural diversity and raises awareness of issues affecting Africans in Africa and the diaspora

www.africacentre.org.uk

African Heritage and Cultural Centre

A London-based project, which aims to help people of all generations and backgrounds understand more about African culture and heritage

www.ahec.org.uk

African Studies Association of the UK

A scholarly organisation with a wide range of members in academia, media and policy-making for those with an interest in Africa

www.asauk.net

Ahmed Iqbal Ullah Race Relations Resource Centre

An open-access library specialising in the study of race, ethnicity and migration

www.racearchive.manchester.ac.uk

Anglo-Sikh Heritage Trail

For the promotion of a greater awareness of the shared heritage between the Sikhs and Britain

asht.info/homepage

Association of Black Photographers

A charity that works internationally in photography, cultural identity, race, and human rights

autograph-abp.co.uk

British Association for Cemeteries in South Asia (BACSA)

Organisation supporting the conservation and recording of British and other European cemeteries, graves and monuments in South Asia

www.bacsa.org.uk

Birmingham Ethnic Minorities Association

BEMA works to appreciate difference through awareness and education

bemaonline.wordpress.com

Black and Asian Studies Association (BASA)

An association to foster research and to disseminate information on the history of Black peoples in Britain. BASA also have a mailing list, which is free to join, where members regularly share forthcoming events, publications and exchange views on current research and developments in the field.

www.blackandasianstudies.org

Black History Canada

A portal site featuring resources relevant to Black history in Canada

www.blackhistorycanada.ca

Black History 4 Schools

Black History 4 Schools is dedicated to the promotion of Black and Asian British history in schools

www.blackhistory4schools.com

Black History Month

Features and events occurring during National Black History Month

www.blackhistorymonth.org.uk

Black Presence in Britain

Historical website that documents the contribution of Black people to British history

www.blackpresence.co.uk

British and Caribbean Veterans Association (West Midlands)

Business and events of the association, formerly the West Midlands Branch of the West Indian Ex-servicemen and Women Association, a charity formed (in Birmingham) in 1995

bcva.weebly.com

British Chinese Workforce Heritage

Charting the history of the Chinese workforce in Britain

www.britishchineseheritagecentre.org.uk

Caribbean Aircrew in the RAF during WW2

An overview of volunteers from the West Indies who flew with the RAF during the Second World War

www.caribbeanaircrew-ww2.com

Caribbean Communities in Europe (CACOUE)

Sharing and preserving knowledge, culture and tradition across the Caribbean communities in Europe

www.caribbeancommunities.eu

Caribbean Family History Group

Events and training sessions in Lambeth, Solihull and Birmingham about the research of Caribbean family history

caribbeanfamilyhistorygroup.wordpress.com

Caribbean Roll of Honour

Database with on-going research into Caribbean participation in both world wars as well as links to memorials, photos and films

caribbeanrollofhonour-ww1-ww2.yolasite.com

Caribbean Studies, Black and Asian History (CASBAH)

A pilot web site for research resources where you can search and browse the CASBAH database and view the full text survey reports

www.casbah.ac.uk

Chattri

Website for the Chattri memorial to the Indian soldiers who died in the First World War, located on the downs near Patcham, Brighton

www.chattri.com

Colonial Film: Moving Images of the British Empire

IWM was a partner on this project to create a new catalogue of films relating to the British Empire and the subsequent website holds information on over 6,000 films, showing images of life in the British colonies. Over 150 films are available for viewing online.

www.colonialfilm.org.uk/home

Commonwealth War Graves Commission

The CWGC *Debt of Honour* database contains details of all service personnel who died in the world wars (the date range covers 4 August 1914–31 August 1921 and 3 September 1939–31 December 1947) and Second World War civilians.

www.cwgc.org

Crossing the White Line: the Walter Tull Story

Part of a project raising awareness of the life of Walter Tull, including resource packs, details of the exhibition as well as the play that has been written about him

www.crossingthewhiteline.com

Diverse Cymru

Wales's first equality charity, that attempts to reduce inequality and improve opportunities for participation and development

www.diverseecymru.org.uk

Doctor Brighton's Pavilion

Virtual tour, photographs and analysis of the Indian experience of staying at the Royal Pavilion in Brighton, which was converted into a hospital for the wounded soldiers of the Indian Army

www.sikhmuseum.com/brighton/index.html

Europeana 1914-1918

Mixes resources from libraries and archives across the globe with memories and memorabilia from families throughout Europe, where you can explore history and contribute that of your own family

www.europeana1914-1918.eu/en

Ensuring We Remember

National campaign for a permanent memorial to the Chinese Labour Corps of the First World War

<http://ensuringweremember.org.uk/>

Every Generation

Online resource for young people and families researching genealogy and Black British identity including information about the workshops the organisation runs

www.everygeneration.co.uk

Families in British India Society

Database and social network for those researching their family heritage in British India

www.new.fibis.org

First World War Centenary

First World War Centenary, led by IWM, has a hub of partner organisations where you can search by locality for organisations in your area

www.1914.org/partners-list

Forgotten Heroes: North Africans and the Great War, 1914–1919

International exhibition paying tribute to the citizens of North Africa who served on the Western Front
www.forgottenheroes.eu

Great War in Africa Association

Creating awareness of the military campaigns in Africa during the First World War, bringing researchers together and signposting relevant information
gweaa.com

Gurkha Brigade Association

Updates on the current Gurkha brigade as well their history, including related news and events
www.gurkhabde.com

Indian Faces of the Great War, USI-CAFHR

Photostream of images of those who contributed in various ways to India's war effort
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/98780532@N08/sets/72157634585245135/>

Indian Military History Society

For those interested in the military history of the Indian subcontinent, encouraging research
imhs.org.uk/

Jeffrey Green

Website of the independent historian Jeffrey Green, which focuses on the activities of people of African descent in Britain before the Great War
www.jeffreygreen.co.uk

King-Emperor: The Indian Army on Campaign 1900–1939

Site dedicated to the British and Indian Officers and Indian Other Ranks who served in the Indian Army during these years including an anthology of articles and source materials
www.king-emperor.com/index.htm

Lascars

For the publication and exchange of information about the history of Lascars
www.lascars.co.uk/

Lives of the First World War

Part of IWM's Centenary Programme is to build a permanent digital memorial to over 8 million men and women of Britain and the Commonwealth who served in the First World War
www.livesofthefirstworldwar.org

Making Britain: Discover how South Asians shaped the Nation, 1870–1950

Online database that provides information about South Asians in Britain from 1870 to 1950, the organizations they were involved in, their British connections, and the major events in which they participated
www.open.ac.uk/researchprojects/makingbritain

Memorial Gates Trust

Information about the Memorial Gates on Constitution Hill, erected in 2002 in recognition of those who served in the First and Second World Wars from the British Empire. Includes information on the individuals who served.
www.mgtrust.org

Moving Here: 200 Years of Migration in England

Archived website with records and illustrations of migration into England over the last 200 years

www.movinghere.org.uk

Mundus: Gateway to Missionary Collections in the United Kingdom

Online guide to hundreds of collections of overseas missionary materials held in the UK, a useful source material

www.mundus.ac.uk

National Army Museum Black Asian British Army

Stories and experiences of Black and Asian members of the British Army

www.nam.ac.uk/microsites/baba/

Official Guide to Black History Month

Guide to activities, events, news, history and music during Black History Month

www.blackhistorymonthuk.co.uk

Open University: Ferguson Study Centre for African and Asian Studies

The Ferguson Centre promotes the interdisciplinary study of empire and postcolonial situations with a particular focus on Africa and Asia

www.open.ac.uk/Arts/ferguson-centre/index.shtml

Portcities UK

Maritime histories of various UK port cities

www.portcities.org.uk

Project 400

Indo-British Heritage initiative celebrating 400 years of shared heritage

<http://project400.org>

Royal African Society

A membership society that promotes Africa in business, politics, culture and academia

www.royalafricansociety.org

Royal Commonwealth Ex-Services League

A charity that provides support for service men and women from the Commonwealth, including the provision of monies and food through a network of ex-service organisations

www.commonwealthveterans.org.uk

Sikh Museum: Preserving a People's Heritage

An online repository of Sikh experience and heritage

www.sikhmuseum.com

Society for Caribbean Studies (UK)

Advancing public education about Caribbean history and disseminating research including information about conferences and seminars

www.caribbeanstudies.org.uk

Swadhinata Trust

The Swadhinata Trust is a London-based secular Bengali heritage group that works to promote Bengali history and heritage among young people

www.swadhinata.org.uk

The National Archives: A World Through a Lens

Photograph sets from The National Archives collections organised by country or continent including Africa, the Caribbean and Asia

www.flickr.com/photos/nationalarchives/collections/72157632921688592/

UK Information Resources on Asia (UKIRA)

A gateway to UK library holdings in the humanities and social sciences relating to Asia, the Middle East and North Africa

www.asiamap.ac.uk/index.php

UK Punjab Heritage Association (UKPHA)

A heritage organisation dedicated to securing Punjab's cultural heritage for today's audiences

www.ukpha.org

United Service Institution of India, Delhi

Founded in 1870, for the study of art, literature, history and geography within the Defence service

www.usiofindia.org

Untold London: People's History in a World City

Looks through London's museums, galleries and archives for hidden multicultural histories

untoldlondon.org.uk

Visualising China: China 1850–1950: An Interactive Resource

An interactive resource that allows users to explore and enhance more than 8,000 digitised images of photographs of China taken between 1850 and 1950

visualisingchina.net

West Indian Association of Service Personnel

Social media page for this charity based in Clapham, London

www.facebook.com/wasphq



Member of the Chinese Labour Corps with a model Chinese junk, probably made as an activity during free time to remind him of home. The photograph was taken at Caestre on 14 July 1917

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8. Select Bibliography

You should be able to order copies of these books through your local library using the inter-library loan scheme. Additionally, many of these books are held at IWM London and can be consulted by appointment in our Research Room.

General titles

Black Poppies: Britain's Black Community and the Great War

Stephen Bourne (London: The History Press, 2014)

Empire in Question: Reading, Writing, and Teaching British Imperialism

Antoinette Burton (Durham, North Carolina: Duke University Press, 2011)

Black Salt: Seafarers of African Descent on British Ships

Ray Costello (Liverpool: Liverpool University Press, 2012)

The Oxford Companion to Black British History

Edited by David Dabydeen, John Gilmore and Cecily Jones (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2007)

Race, Empire and First World War Writing

Edited by Santanu Das (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2011)

Staying Power: The History of Black People in Britain

Peter Fryer (London: Pluto Press, 1984)

The Unknown Force: Black, Indian and Coloured Soldiers through two World Wars

Ian Gleeson (Rivonia: Ashanti Publishing, 1994)

Black Edwardians: Black People in Britain, 1901–1914

Jeffrey Green (Abingdon, Oxon: Frank Cass, 1998)

Cross of Sacrifice: Volume V: The Officers, Men and Women of the Merchant Navy and Mercantile Fleet Auxiliary, 1914–1919

D B and S D Jarvis (Uckfield, East Sussex: Naval and Military Press, 2000)

Black 1919: Riots, Racism and Resistance in Imperial Britain

Jacqueline Jenkinson (Liverpool: Liverpool University Press, 2009)

The Black Man's Part in the War

Sir Harry H Johnston (London: Simpkin, Marshall, Hamilton, Kent, 1917)

The Empire at War: [5 vols]

Edited for the Royal Colonial Institute by Sir Charles Lucas (London: Oxford University Press, 1921–1926)

Regiments: Regiments and Corps of the British Army and Commonwealth 1798–1993

Compiled and published by Roger Perkins (Newton Abbot, Devon: R Perkins, 1994)

The Commonwealth Armies: Manpower and Organisation in Two World Wars

F W Perry (Manchester: Manchester University Press, 1988)

Order of Battle of Divisions: Part 5A: The Divisions of Australia, Canada and New Zealand and those in East Africa

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Phil Vasili (Mitcham, Surrey: Raw Press, 2010)

From Claret to Khaki: Walter Tull: Pioneering Black Footballer and Soldier

Rod Wickens (Liverpool: Woodford Books, 2003)

Indigenous Peoples of the British Dominions and the Great War

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Africa

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Compiled by John Arnold (N.p.: Orders and Medals Research Society, 1998)

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The History of the Royal West African Frontier Force

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Burmese labourers reading Burmese papers, near Contalmaison, 2 September 1917

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IWM is leading the First World War Centenary Partnership, a network of local, regional, national and international cultural and educational organisations. Together, we will present a vibrant global programme of cultural events and activities, and digital platforms, which will enable millions of people across the world to discover more about life in the First World War.

This guide was produced as a free resource following the *Whose Remembrance?* research project, supported by the Arts and Humanities Research Council. For further information please contact research@iwm.org.uk.

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