

Contribution of Indian Women during World War I & II

'If the Indian Army had not arrived when it did, the Germans may well have broken through and they may well have got the Channel Ports and the whole history of the war may well have been very different'

Military Historian Gordon Corrigan

Along with nearly 4 million men, many Indian women played a key role in supporting the military efforts of World War I & II.



Mrs Ragbir in her Red Cross nurse's uniform.
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Mrs Ragbir

Mrs Ragbir lived in Pollokshaws, Glasgow. During World War II she volunteered as a nurse with the Red Cross. Red Cross volunteers cared for the sick and wounded during air raids and in recovery homes and hospitals.

Noor Inayat Khan

Noor was known as the 'Spy Princess'. In World War II she joined the Women's Auxiliary Air Force and later was recruited as a spy. In 1943 Noor was the first female wireless operator sent from Britain to German-occupied France, to assist the French Resistance. Betrayed to the Germans, she was executed at Dachau concentration camp in 1944. After the war she was posthumously awarded the George Cross in 1949.



Noor Inayat Khan was Britain's first Muslim war heroine.
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Princess Sophia Duleep Singh in her nurse's uniform, 1918.
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Princess Sophia Duleep Singh

Sophia was the daughter of Maharaja Duleep Singh, the last ruler of the Sikh Empire, deposed by the British and sent to the UK. She was part of the women's suffrage movement and held strong political views, being committed to votes for women and freedom for India. During World War I, she nursed and raised money for wounded Indian soldiers.

See more at the GlaswegAsians exhibition in Scotland Street School Museum.



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