



Impact of Indian people lives after World War II

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Abstract

During the Second World War (1939–1945), India was controlled by the United Kingdom, with the British holding territories in India including over five hundred autonomous Princely States; British India officially declared war on Nazi Germany in September 1939. The British Raj, as part of the Allied Nations, sent over two and a half million soldiers to fight under British command against the Axis powers. The British government borrowed billions of pounds to help finance the war. India also provided the base for American operations in support of China in the China Burma India Theater.

Keywords: Second World War, British, United Kingdom

Introduction

Indians fought with distinction throughout the world, including in the European theatre against Germany, in North Africa against Germany and Italy, in the South Asian region defending India against the Japanese and fighting the Japanese in Burma. Indians also aided in liberating British colonies such as Singapore and Hong Kong after the Japanese surrender in August 1945. Over 87,000 Indian soldiers (including those from modern day Pakistan, Nepal, and Bangladesh) died in World War II [2]. Field Marshal Sir Claude Auchinleck, Commander-in-Chief of the Indian Army from 1942 asserted the British "couldn't have come through both wars [World War I and II] if they hadn't had the Indian Army"[3].



Fig 1: Indian infantrymen of the 7th Rajput Regiment about to go on patrol on the Arakan front in Burma, 1944.

The Muslim League upheld the British war exertion while the biggest and most persuasive political gathering existing in India at the time, the Indian National Congress, requested autonomy before it would help Britain. London won't, and when Congress declared a "Quit India" crusade in August

1942, a huge number of its pioneers were detained by the British for the length. Then, under the administration of Indian pioneer Subhas Chandra Bose, Japan set up a multitude of Indian POWs known as the Indian National Army, which battled against the British. A noteworthy starvation in Bengal in 1943 prompted a huge number of passings by starvation, and remains a very dubious issue with respect to Churchill's hesitance to give crisis sustenance relief.[citation needed]

Indian support in the Allied battle stayed solid. The monetary, mechanical and military help of India framed a pivotal segment of the British crusade against Nazi Germany and Imperial Japan [5]. India key area at the tip of the Indian Ocean, its substantial creation of weapons, and its immense military assumed a definitive part in ending the advance of Imperial Japan in the South-East Asian theatre [6]. The Indian Army amid World War II was one of the biggest Allied powers contingents which partook in the North and East African Campaign, Western Desert Campaign. At the stature of the World War, in excess of 2.5 million Indian troops were battling Axis powers around the globe [7]. After the finish of the war, India's developed as the world's fourth biggest modern power and its expanded political, monetary and military impact prepared for its autonomy from the United Kingdom in 1947.

Quit India Movement

The Indian National Congress, led by Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and Maulana Azad, denounced Nazi Germany but would not fight it or anyone else until India was independent [9]. Congress launched the Quit India Movement in August 1942, refusing to co-operate in any way with the government until independence was granted. The government wasn't ready for this move. It immediately arrested over 60,000 national and local Congress leaders, and then moved to suppress the violent reaction of Congress supporters. Key leaders were kept in prison until June 1945, although Gandhi was released in May 1944 because of his health. Congress, with its leaders

incommunicado, played little role on the home front. The Muslim League rejected the Quit India movement and worked closely with the Raj authorities.



Fig 2: Prominent Indian leaders, including Gandhi, Patel and Maulana Azad, denounced Nazism as well as British imperialism.

Supporters of the British Raj argued that decolonisation was impossible in the middle of a great war. So, in 1939, the British Viceroy, Lord Linlithgow declared India's entry into the War without consulting prominent Indian Congress leaders who were just elected in previous elections ^[1].

Subhas Chandra Bose (also called Netaji) had been a top Congress leader. He broke with Congress and tried to form a military alliance with Germany or Japan to gain independence. Japan helped him set up the Indian National Army (INA) which fought under Japanese direction, mostly in Burma Campaign. Bose also headed the Provisional Government of Free India, a government-in-exile based in Singapore. It controlled no Indian territory and was used only to raise troops for Japan.

British Indian Army

The Middle East and African theatre

Main articles: Western Desert Campaign, Anglo-Iraqi War, Syria-Lebanon Campaign, East African Campaign (World War II), and Anglo-Soviet invasion of Iran.

The English government in the interim sent Indian troops to battle in West Asia and northern Africa against the Axis. India additionally equipped to create basic merchandise, for example, nourishment and garbs. Pre-Independence India gave the biggest volunteer power (2.5 million) of any country amid World War II.

The fourth, fifth and tenth Indian Divisions participated in the North African performance center against Rommel's Afrika Korps. In expansion, the eighteenth Brigade of the eighth Indian Division battled at Alamein. Prior, the fourth and fifth Indian Divisions partook in the East African crusade against the Italians in Somaliland, Eritrea and Abyssinia catching the mountain fortification of Keren.

In the Battle of Bir Hacheim, Indian heavy weapons specialists assumed a vital part by utilizing firearms in the counter tank part and devastating tanks of Rommel's panzer

divisions. Maj PPK Kumaramangalam was the battery administrator of 41 Field Regiment which was conveyed in the counter tank part. He was granted the DSO for his demonstration of dauntlessness. Later he turned into the Chief of Army Staff of free India in 1967.

South-East Asian Theater

An Indian wartime captive from Hong Kong after freedom in 1945

The British Indian Army was the key British Empire battling nearness in the Burma Campaign. The Royal Indian Air power's first ambush mission was done against Japanese troops positioned in Burma. The British Indian Army was vital to breaking the attack of Imphal when the westbound progress of Imperial Japan stopped.

The arrangements incorporated the Indian III Corps, IV Corps, the Indian XXXIII Corps and the Fourteenth Army. As a component of the new idea of Long Range Penetration (LRP), Gurkha troops of the Indian Army were prepared in the current situation with Madhya Pradesh under their officer then Krishnasamy (later Major General) Orde Charles Wingate.

These troops, famously known as Chindits, assumed a urgent part in stopping the Japanese progress into South Asia ^[3].

Catch of An Indian area

Primary articles: Invasion and control of the Andaman Islands amid World War II, Battle of Kohima, and Battle of Imphal. By 1942, neighboring Burma was attacked by Japan, which by then had just caught the Indian domain of Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Japan gave ostensible control of the islands to the Provisional Government of Free India on 21 October 1943, and in the next March, the Indian National Army with the assistance of Japan crossed into India and progressed similar to Kohima in Nagaland. This progress on the terrain of South Asia achieved its most distant point on India region, withdrawing from the Battle of Kohima in June and from that of Imphal on 3 July 1944.[citation needed]

Recover of Axis-possessed domain

In 1944–45 Japan was under substantial air assault at home and endured monstrous maritime thrashings in the Pacific. As its Imphal hostile fizzled, unforgiving climate and malady and withdrawal of air cover (because of all the more squeezing needs in the Pacific) additionally inflicted significant damage on the Japanese and remainders of the INA and the Burma National Army. In spring 1945, a resurgent British armed force recovered the involved lands ^[4].

The attack of Italy

A Sikh warrior (of the fourth Division (the Red Eagles) of the Indian Army, appended to the British Fifth Army in Italy) holding a caught swastika hail after the surrender of Nazi German powers in Italy. Behind him, rightist engravings on the wall painting says VIVA IL DUCE, "Long experience the Duce" (Benito Mussolini). Photograph around May 1945

Indian powers assumed a part in freeing Italy from Nazi control. India contributed the third biggest allied unexpected in the Italian battle after US and British powers. The fourth, eighth and tenth Divisions and 43rd Gurkha Infantry Brigade drove the progress, quite at the exhausting Battle of Monte

Cassino. They battled on the Gothic Line in 1944 and 1945.

The impact of war on Indian independence

Even before the World War II began, the British had realised the futility of holding on to their reign in India. By the time the war ended, Great Britain was bankrupt, unable and unwilling to continue to maintain colonies of the British Empire.

WWII acted as a catalyst to India's fight for independence but not before the British almost lost India to Netaji's Indian National Army. INA was raised by Subhash Chandra Bose as a deeply committed military force comprising Indian volunteers and POWs of the Japanese in South East Asia, with the aim of launching a military campaign to throw the British out of India.

And they almost succeeded. The INA and Japanese forces were finally stopped by the British Army, with help of Indian soldiers, in Imphal and Kohima in the North East.

The impact of Bengal Famine

The Bengal Famine in 1943 was devastating for the Indian people but with the British refusing to stop supplies from India in favour of those suffering in the country, only strengthened the resolve of the nationalists in their call for freedom.

Calcutta light horse and operation creek

In March 1943, the SOE, which trained Noor Inayat Khan, undertook a secret mission in India. Goa, at the time, was under Portuguese rule and was a neutral territory during WWII. The Germans had a merchant ship 'Ehrenfels' which, along with two other merchant ships, was docked in Mormugao and transmitting information to Axis forces on Allied naval activity.

Officers of the Calcutta Light Horse, which was a reserve unit comprising of officers with little or no combat experience, sailed from Calcutta all the way around the southern tip to Goa. They sank the three German ships which resulted in reduced Allied naval losses in the Arabian Sea. The mission was later made into a film titled, 'The Sea Wolves'.

A strong legacy

As the war came to an end, the British government in India began to initiate steps for withdrawal. The violent partition of the country left deep scars but the British also left behind a professional and well trained defence force in India. The other strong legacy of the British came in the form of institutions—the civil services, the judiciary, the Railways and other services, all of which contributed deeply in serving as a stable foundation on which modern India stands today.

India's contribution to WWII had a positive outcomes in the shaping of South Asia and South East Asia, as we know today. Through WWII and in the post war period, India's influence extended from erstwhile Burma (now Myanmar) in the East, to Afghanistan in the North West. India was never part of the cause for World War II but its contribution had a significant impact on the outcome, something that the current generation must know and be proud of.

Collaboration with the axis powers

Subhas Chandra Bose, once a prominent leader of Congress, volunteered to help Germany and Japan; he said Britain's opposition to Nazism and Fascism as "hypocrisy" since it was itself violating human rights and denying individual liberties in India. Also, he contended that it was not Germany and Japan but rather the British Raj which was the foe, since the British were over-abusing Indian assets for War purposes. Bose recommended that there was little plausibility of India being assaulted by any of the Axis powers gave it didn't battle the War on Britain's side ^[5].

Caught troopers of the British Indian Army who declined to join the INA were executed by the Japanese. Berlin was empowering however gave little help. Bose at that point moved toward Tokyo which gave him control of Indian powers it had organized ^[7].

The Indian National Army (INA), framed first by Mohan Singh Deb, comprised at first of detainees taken by the Japanese in Malaya and at Singapore who were offered the decision of serving the INA by Japan or staying in exceptionally negative conditions in POW camps. Afterward, after it was redesigning under Subhas Chandra Bose, it drew regular citizen volunteers from Malaya and Burma. Eventually, a power of under 40,000 was framed, albeit just two divisions at any point partook in fight. Knowledge and exceptional administrations bunches from the INA were instrumental in destabilizing the British Indian Army in the beginning times of the Arakan hostile. It was amid this time the British Military Intelligence started purposeful publicity work to shield the genuine numbers who joined the INA, and furthermore depicted stories of Japanese brutalities that showed INA association. Further, the Indian press was denied from distributing any records at all of the INA.

As the Japanese hostile opened, the INA was sent into fight. Bose planned to maintain a strategic distance from set-piece fights for which it needed arms, combat hardware and in addition man-power ^[8]. Initially, he looked to get arms and additionally increment its positions from British Indian officers he trusted would abandon to his motivation. Once the Japanese powers could break the British barriers at Imphal, he got ready for the INA to cross the slopes of North-East India into the Gangetic plain, where it was to fill in as a guerrilla armed force and anticipated that would live off the land, collect help, supplies, and positions from among the neighborhood masses to eventually touch off an upset.

Prem Kumar Sahgal, an officer of the INA once Military secretary to Subhas Bose and later attempted in the primary Red Fort trials, clarified that despite the fact that the war itself hung in adjust and no one was certain if the Japanese would win, starting a prevalent upheaval with grass-root bolster inside India would guarantee that regardless of whether Japan lost the war eventually, Britain would not be in a situation to re-state its provincial specialist, which was at last the point of the INA and Azad Hind.

Troops of the Indische Legion

As Japan opened its hostile towards India, the INA's first division, comprising of four Guerrilla regiments, took part in

Arakan hostile in 1944, with one contingent coming to similar to Mowdok in Chittagong. Different units were coordinated to Imphal and Kohima, and in addition to secure Japanese Flanks toward the south of Arakan, an undertaking it effectively did. Be that as it may, the main division endured an indistinguishable destiny from did Mutaguchi's Army when the attack of Imphal was broken. With next to zero supplies and supply lines deluged by the Monsoon, badgering by Allied air predominance, the INA started pulling back when the fifteenth Army and Burma Area Army started pulling back, and endured an indistinguishable awful destiny from injured, starved and unhealthy men surrendered amid the hurried withdrawal into Burma. Later in the war be that as it may, the INA's second division, entrusted with the resistance of Irrawaddy and the abutting regions around Nangyu, was instrumental in contradicting Messervy's seventh Indian Infantry Division when it endeavored to cross the waterway at Pagan and Nyangyu amid the effective Burma Campaign by the Allies the next year. The second division was instrumental in denying the seventeenth Indian Infantry Division the territory around Mount Popa that would have uncovered the Flank of Kimura's powers endeavoring to retake Meiktila and Nyangyu. At last be that as it may, the division was crushed. A portion of the surviving units of the Army surrendered as Rangoon fell, and helped keep arrange till the unified powers entered the city. Alternate remainders started a long walk over land and by walking towards Singapore, alongside Subhas Chandra Bose. As the Japanese circumstance ended up tricky, Bose left for Manchuria to endeavor to contact the Russians, and was accounted for to have kicked the bucket in an air crash close Taiwan.

Conclusion

The main Indian region that the Azad Hind government controlled was ostensibly the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Be that as it may, they were bases for the Japanese Navy, and the naval force never surrendered control. Goaded with the absence of regulatory control, the Azad Hind Governor, Lt. Col. Loganathan, later surrendered his power. After the War, various officers of the INA were striven for treachery. In any case, looked with the likelihood of a monstrous common distress and an uprising in the Indian Army, the British authorities chose to discharge the detainees of-war, moreover the occasion turned into a defining moment to facilitate the procedure of change of energy and freedom of India.

The lukewarm support for Indian Independence shown by Germany and Japan masked their real ultimate goal - if they had won World War II they would have divided Asia in two along the 70° E Longitude.

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