

# Role of the Faridkot State of the Punjab in the First World War

## Abstract

During the First World War Raja Barjinder Singh of the Faridkot State and his subjects played a very important role in providing every kind of services to the British Empire. The Faridkot State sent its contingent of Sappers and Miners to East Africa which served the British for almost three and a half years. The State further helped the British by providing recruits to the Indian army. The Sikh ruler and his subjects rendered their valuable services by providing men, money, material and lives stocks during the entire period of the War. The state also invested Rupees 17,89,060 in War loans and sent more than Rupees 20,000 worth of articles for the comfort of the soldiers at the War front.

**Keywords:** Sappers, Reinforcements, Contingent, Muleteer, Deport, Military, Draft.

## Introduction

The Faridkot State was an important princely state of the Punjab in India. With the beginning of the First World War, Barjinder Singh of Faridkot at once offered the services of his Imperial Service Sappers which was employed in East Africa. The State also provided men, money and material to the British Government during the War. On October 17, 1914 the Political Agent, Bahawalpur Agency asked the Faridkot Darbar to make provisions of the reinforcement to meet the casualties in the Imperial Service Sappers on active service. In order to provide for reinforcements of the units which had mobilized it was necessary for the State to increase the strength of their depot by 25 men. Soon the State sent a reinforcement of 24 men. However the Government wanted more recruits. The Imperial Service Sappers had the strength of 149. The Darbar carried on the work of recruitment vigorously and till July 1916 A.D. no vacancy was left in depot.<sup>1</sup> The Faridkot State rewarded the Colonel of the 7<sup>th</sup> Hariana Lancers with Rs. 45 for providing good services in instructing the Sappers in the use of the new rifles. On December 22, 1914, the Faridkot State despatched many sets of clothing for its troops on active service and also supplied milk and sugar to them. The State had sent nine reinforcement upto June 5, 1917 as detailed under:- 16 men on December 15, 1914, 8 men on January 6, 1915, 20 men on September 6, 1915, 6 on October 6, 1915, 16 on December 13, 1915, 40 on September 13, 1916, 13 on November 7, 1916, 12 on January 5, 1917 and 65 men on May 18, 1917. Total 196 men were sent as reinforcement.<sup>2</sup> The State also supplied 23 men to Indian Army. In December 1914 A.D. the Faridkot State donated Rs. 50,000 towards Imperial Indian Relief Fund. A sum of Rs. 30739-9-9 was collected as voluntary subscriptions from the officials and non-officials of the State but that amount was kept as a deposit in the local treasury of the State to meet the requirements of the Faridkot Sappers and Miners contingent and was not remitted to the Provincial Committee of the Punjab Branch of the Indian Imperial Relief Fund. The Raja also deposited Rs. 5,000 on September 15, 1915 as the contribution from the State to the Lady O'Dwyer Comforts Fund and Rs. 10,000 to St. John's Ambulance War Fund.<sup>3</sup> On April 5, 1915 the State offered to supply free of cost 12 tents without durries and interior walls for hospital use with Expeditionary Force in France.<sup>4</sup> However the Government accepted only 6 tents which were to be double fly tents of 320 square feet floor area and over. On May 2, 1917 the Faridkot State offered 24 tents as detailed:-



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Descriptions of Tents	Outside Dimensions of Tents		Inner Dimensions of Tents	
	Length	Breadth	Length	Breadth
9 double poled tents of single Tup and single Qanat each	50'x	40'	18'x	30'
9 single poled tents of double Tup and double Qanat each	50'x	50'	16'x	16'
6 single poled tents of double Tup and double Qanat each	50'x	50'	18'x	18'

This offer was accepted by the Government.<sup>5</sup> The State further contributed Rs. 25,000 to the Prince of Wales Fund.<sup>6</sup> In addition to the monthly pay, the Faridkot State also provided good conduct pay, allowances for special works, batta to the Imperial Service Sappers.<sup>7</sup> Since the departure of the Faridkot Sappers Company for the Front upto November 17, 1915 A.D. consignments of clothing worth Rs. 1461-9-3 were despatched for the use of the men on active service. This cost was undertaken by the State. The details of the consignment was as:-<sup>8</sup>

1<sup>st</sup> Consignment:- 200 shirts, 200 knicker – bockers despatched on December 12, 1914 at the cost of Rs. 514/-

2<sup>nd</sup> Consignment:- 200 shirts, 300 yards Pagri cloth, cost was Rs. 402-10-8 and was despatched on March 19, 1915 A.D.

3<sup>rd</sup> Consignment:- 200 shirts, 200 knickers, at the cost of Rs. 429-4-7 and 200 socks at the cost of Rs. 115-10-0 despatched on May 29, 1915. On December 4, 1915 the Raja of the State offered to provide on Armoured Aeroplane to be called Faridkot Aeroplane for service in the cause of the British Empire and for this purpose contributed Rs. 75,000 to the Punjab Aeroplane Fleet Fund. His offer was accepted by the Government.<sup>9</sup> The Motor Ambulance Fund was started to provide help to the wounded soldiers and in a meeting held on April 8, 1916, a sum of Rs. 18,193 was subscribed by the officials and non officials of the State.<sup>10</sup> So two motor ambulances were offered by the State. This offer was accepted by the Government.<sup>11</sup>

Mrs. Pollett, a Doctor collected Rs. 2,151 from the ladies of the Palace and the families of officers and citizens and remitted this sum through Mrs. Elliott to the St. John's Ambulance Association, Punjab Centre (Lahore). The main contributors of the Fund were:-<sup>12</sup>

1.	Her Highness Shri Maharani Sahiba	Rs. 1,000
2.	Shri Mai Sahib Buria	Rs. 500
3.	Wife of Sardarinder Singh Sahib	Rs. 15
4.	Wife of S. Arjan Singh	Rs. 15
5.	Mrs. Pollett on behalf of Zenana Hospital Staff	Rs. 20
6.	Mrs. Ganga Sahai	Rs. 100
7.	Mai Sahib MotiMahal	Rs. 200
8.	Mother of S. Atar Singh	Rs. 50
9.	Wife of S. Narain Singh	Rs. 100
10.	Wife of Col. Hira Singh	Rs. 40
11.	Wife of ChaudhariPartap Singh	Rs. 15

Mrs. Norris prepared and received contributions of one dozen socks, 6 dozen shirts and 30 dozen handkerchiefs and sent through Mrs. Elliott

to the Red Cross Depot, Punjab Centre. Other contributions made by the State in aid of War were:

1. Rs. 1500 to the Royal Flying Corps Aids Committee, London.
2. Rs. 3,600 to the British Ambulance Committee to Service de Sante Militaire, London, towards cost of maintenance of one ambulance car for one year.
3. Rs. 1500 to the Enlightenment and Recruiting Fund of the Imperial Maritime League, London. The State issued instructions to the Chief Revenue Officer and the Chief Judicial Officer to make prompt inquiries about cases of distress in the families of sepoys at the front and to afford relief to their relatives atonce and not to decide civil suits against sepoys at the Front but to keep them pending till their return from the Front. Efforts were made to settle the cases related to marriage etc. amicably.<sup>13</sup> The Government of India asked the Punjab Government to raise 1500 camel Sarwan and 2000 muleteers for service in Mesopotamia by October 15, 1916. So the Faridkot State atonce put all its officials of the Revenue Department on this important work. Upto October 11, 1916, 200 recruits were enlisted and till October 22, 1916, 421 recruits were enlisted by the State. All the recruits were handed over free of cost by the State. The total expenditure incurred by the State on this work of recruitment was as:-

1.	Bonus of Rs. 75 per Sarwan to 364 recruits	Rs. 27,300
2.	Bonus of Rs. 50 per muleteer to 36 recruits	Rs. 1,800
3.	Bonus of Rs. 50 per muleteer to 15 recruits who were sent to Ferozepur	Rs. 750
4.	Bonus of Rs. 3 per recruit to the persons who presented recruits. 90 persons were not produced by anyone. They had offered themselves for service	Rs. 975
5.	Subsistence allowance	Rs. 261
6.	Travelling expenses	Rs. 195
7.	Contingent expenses	Rs. 65
	Total	Rs. 31,345

Altogether 544 recruits were enlisted out of which 73 were discharged either on the request of their relatives or they had absented themselves from Ferozepur. 435 recruits passed the physical fitness test out of whom 20 were rejected by the Transport Officer Soon 50 more men were recruited by the State.<sup>14</sup> 109 were rejected by the State authorities, 10

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were rejected by the Commandant 54<sup>th</sup> Camel Corps Lahore Cantt. Thus leaving the number of 405 recruits offered by the State and accepted by the Military authorities. Of these 364 were Sarwan recruits and 41 were muleteers. Out of 405 recruits the State had supplied 297 recruits by the fixed date of October 15, 1916. The number of recruits i.e. 405 supplied by the State was 12 percent or about 1/8<sup>th</sup> of the total number required.<sup>15</sup>

However in a telegram dated November 16, 1916 of the Revenue Secretary to the Government of Punjab to the Secretary to the Government of India it was expressed that the Faridkot State had spent Rs. 31,346 in recruiting 401 Sarwans and muleteers.<sup>16</sup> The total number of recruits enlisted in the State from the beginning of the War upto end of December, 1916 A.D. was 291 the detail of which was as:-<sup>17</sup>

1.	Recruits enlisted in the Indian Army	Recruited by different persons	85
		Enlisted by themselves	145
2.	Recruits enlisted in the Faridkot Sappers Company	Recruited by other persons	26
		Enlisted by themselves	35
Total			291

On October 25, 1916 the Faridkot State was asked to provide aid to the Over-seas Club Tobacco Fund which was supplying tobacco to the fighting forces from England and other countries. But the Faridkot State did not support this Fund.<sup>18</sup>

In 1917 A.D. the Raja proposed to raise an additional Company of Sappers and Miners which was to consist of 150 men.<sup>19</sup> On January 24, 1917 the Raja donated Rs. 10,000 which was allotted as under:-<sup>20</sup>

1.	To endowments in bed at DehraDun Hospital for one year for Indian invalided soldiers	Rs. 2,000
2.	St. John's Ambulance Association, Punjab Branch	Rs. 3,000/-
3.	The Young Men's Christian Association Emergency Fund for Indian Troops in Mesopotamia	Rs. 5,000/-

In the year 1915-16 A.D. the State also provided 2,162 Maunds of Kikar bark free of cost to the Superintendent, Government Harness and Saddlery Factor, Kanpur.<sup>20</sup> On January 2, 1917 the Raja offered most loyally 12 horses to the Imperial Government for the purpose of War.<sup>21</sup> He also donated Rs. 5000 as house rent for convalescent home which was to be selected by the Military

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authorities at Shimla.<sup>22</sup> He also contributed Rs. 6000/- towards the Gurdwara to be built in Basra.<sup>23</sup> However soon it was realized that Basra had become merely a rest camp and its population regarding the Sikhs kept fluctuating. So the Government of India decided not to proceed with the proposal of the construction of a Gurdwara at Basra and so the subscription from Darbars was applied to some other religious purpose.<sup>24</sup> In April, 1917 A.D. the Government wanted to purchase one thousand male camels between 6 to 14 years of age. Mr. Jenkin visited Faridkot in March and selected 48 camels. The Raja presented these camels to the Government free of cost. The British Government also accepted this offer.<sup>25</sup> He further offered his house called 'Belmont Palace' at Kasauli for use as a convalescent home for the British Officers for the period of the War.<sup>26</sup> In June 1917 A.D. the Faridkot State again offered 13 pairs of artillery harness for the War use.<sup>27</sup> He contributed Rs. 40,000 in honour of His Majesty King Emperor's birthday for comfort for the troops of the Mesopotamia Force. This offer was accepted by the Government<sup>28</sup> and also invested Rs. 6,50,000 in War loans.<sup>29</sup> On the third anniversary of the First World War, he made following contributions:-<sup>30</sup>

1.	200 yards tape made Izarband, 150 cotton durries, 200 towels, 30 Maunds country soap prepared on monthly basis in the State jail and sent to Lady O'Dwyer Fund	
2.	St. John's Ambulance Fund	Rs. 5,000
3.	For relief of Prisoners of War	Rs. 2000
4.	Lady Willington Fund for blind and disabled soldiers	Rs. 2000
5.	Gurmukhi books for the use of Sikh soldiers in hospitals	Rs. 500

The Raja made an offer to place his house 'Ravenswood' in Shimla at the disposal of the Government of India. The house was placed free of rent. This was a great help as the Quartermaster General was expecting a large number of officers to reach Shimla that year and so his house was very useful for them.<sup>31</sup> His offer was gratefully accepted by the Government.<sup>32</sup> On January 23, 1917 the Political Agent, Bahawalpur Agency despatched a letter to the Faridkot State in which he expressed his desire to get more buildings in the State which could be used as barracks, accommodations and War hospitals and convalescent use for the British and Indian troops. The Faridkot State placed at the disposal of the Government following state houses:-<sup>33</sup>

Name of Place	Locality	Its Use at that Time	For What Purpose Suitable	Accommodation Available and the Number it could Accommodate Both British and Indians
House No. 41 at FerozepurCantt	Ferozepur Cantonment	Vacant	For British Officer's accommodation	8 British Officers could be accommodated
AraishGanj and PariMahal	Faridkot	Used as Courts of Law	For British Officer's accommodation	10 British Officers
KothiBaghwali	Ferozepur	Vacant	For Indian Commissioned Officers	6 Indians Commissioned Officers
One set of Officer's Quarters in the Infantry lines	Faridkot	Occupied but can be spared	For Indian Commissioned Officers	2 Indian Commissioned Officers
3 sets of barracks in the State Infantry lines	Faridkot	Occupied but can be spared	For Indian Soldiers	Each barrack sufficient for the accommodation of 34 men and 2 non-commissioned officers
Kotkapura House	Kotkapura town	Vacant	Indian Commissioned Officers	For 12 Indian Commissioned Officers

In compliance with the orders of the Raja, a public meeting was held on February 6, 1917 in Faridkot. The purpose of this meeting was to open a Faridkot Sappers Company Fund. The things of comforts to be sent to the Sappers Company were shirts, vests, socks, kachheras, rethe, hair oil and country sweets. A permanent monthly subscriptions of Rs. 33-8-0 was also promised. During the time of this meeting, the State had already got prepared 200 shirts, 200 combs and 200 kachheras. All the tailors of the Faridkot town offered to prepare the clothings of the Imperial Service Sappers free of sewing charges till the termination of the War.<sup>34</sup> On April 9, 1917 the State sent 200 tooth sticks to the Sappers Company in the field. The Mistress and students of the Faridkot Girls School prepared 17 pairs of socks and sent to the Faridkot Imperial Service Sappers Company. The report of a meeting of the Executive Committee of Faridkot Comforts Fund was submitted to the Raja on June 12, 1917 A.D. in which it remarked that it was making satisfactory progress. Many generous people had contributed towards the Fund. So the Committee expected to collect about Rs. 2000 in all which would be ample for the comforts of the Faridkot Sappers Company. Till July 18, 1917 A.D. 203 subscribers of monthly subscriptions were enlisted and the total amount collected was Rs. 2,978-13-0. In August, 1917 A.D. 24 pairs of socks were sent out of which 18 were prepared by the school girls and school Mistress and 6 were supplied by a lady Doctor.<sup>35</sup> In January 1917 A.D. the Government of India decided to re-organize the system of recruiting for all ranks of the Indian Army. So the Faridkot State divided its area into 14 centres and the influential Zaildars and Lambardars were made incharge of these centres as recruiters. The whole system of recruitment worked under the supervision of the Chief Revenue Officer and his subordinates. The State supplied about 300 recruits to the Indian Army and Imperial Service Sappers in addition to 405 Sarwans and muleteers since the commencement of the War upto the end of December 1916 A.D.<sup>36</sup> The Raja also offered to contribute Rs. 40,000/- to provide extra accommodation for wounded soldiers in Mesopotamia.<sup>37</sup> In May 1917 A.D. the FaridkotDarbar authorized the Special Service Officer to detain non-

commissioned officers and sappers to serve beyond their qualifying period of service.<sup>38</sup> Every official of the State had subscribed his one month's pay to the War Loan. Till September 6, 1917 A.D. the amount of War Loan deposited was as:-<sup>39</sup>

1.	Amount deposited in Faridkot State (Post Office)	Rs. 4,18,956-4-0
2.	Amount deposited outside on behalf of Faridkot State	Rs. 21,000/-
	Total	Rs. 4,39,956-4-0

On May 23, 1917 the State provided 27 mules free of cost to the Government.<sup>40</sup> The Faridkot State provided following concessions to its Imperial Service Sappers:-

1. Grant of wound and injury pensions to all officers, rank and file and followers and non-combatants and all other employed and grant of family pensions to the heirs of the deceased, grant of Rs. 25 from the State Branch of Imperial Indian Relief Fund to those proceeding on sick leave and Rs. 50 to those discharged from service on return from field from the same fund and grant of Rs. 50 from Patriotic and Indian Heroes Fund to the heirs of deceased on the same scale admissible to Indian Army.
2. Grant of Field Service Clothing.
3. Free rations to the invalids
4. Free family remittance and free postage on the correspondence.
5. Help to the heirs of those serving in field in all difficulties. Total 11 drafts of reinforcements consisting of 400 men were sent from the beginning of the War upto May 18, 1917. The Raja also offered to raise a second Company. The strength of Imperial Service Sappers in field had already been raised from 150 men to 200 on October 10, 1916 A.D.<sup>42</sup> In July 1917 A.D. the Government needed ice plants and thermantidotes for troops on active service and asked the Faridkot State to make arrangements for its supply. But no private person of the State territory came forward to offer any ice plant or thermantidote for placing at the disposal of the Government. The Chief Revenue Officer of the State believed that such machines were not available in the State. The State offered six

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thermantidotes from the State Workshop. But no ice-plant was available in the State.<sup>43</sup>

In September 1917 A.D. the Raja of the Faridkot State offered to recruit 400 combatants for the Indian Army by dussehra which was to be held on October 25, 1917. The budget estimate for the enrolment of the recruits for the Indian Army was Rs. 28000. The State had enlisted 175 recruits till October 12, 1917. On the Dussehra day 200 recruits were presented by the Raja out of which 188 were found fit for military service.<sup>44</sup> He also offered to pay the bonus and other recruiting charges of the recruits obtained for the Indian Army which was accepted by the Government.<sup>45</sup> In October 1917 A.D. the Government wanted to celebrate "Our Day" movement in the Punjab. The primary object of the movement was to raise a subscription for the Red Cross for Mesopotamia and other places in which the Indian troops were taking part. The celebration in connection with "Our Day" was held in Faridkot. In connection with the same celebration, Lady O'Dwyer organized a 'Lucky Bag' in the Punjab. The Raja of Faridkot contributed Rs. 6000 in cash and also sent three hundred prizes in kind. In order to make "Our Day" a financial success, the States and Presidencies in India undertook many projects. One of the project was to compile a Calander for 1918 A.D. with an original motto, or quotation of about eight words for each day in the year being suggested by the Viceroy, Governors and other influential people. The quotations and names of the people greatly enhanced the value of the Souvenir. All the contributors were asked to send small donations towards the expenses of the production of the Calender. So the Raja issued a cheque of Rs. 100 to the Secretary "Our Day" Calender Committee, Allahabad and send quotation as- "True life is living for the good of others".<sup>46</sup> In October 1917 A.D. the Raja offered six binoculars for use in the field but the Government had sufficient number of binoculars and no more binoculars were required.<sup>47</sup> The recruiting meeting was held on August 15, 1918. The progress made in the enlistment of collection of War Loan till August 15, 1918 was as:-<sup>48</sup>

War Loan:- Deposited to Post Office upto August 4, 1918	Rs. 1,07,910
Deposited to Post Office from August 5, 1918 to August 15, 1918	Rs. 48,557
Total	Rs. 1,56,461

On January 6, 1918 he offered a sum of Rs. 20,000 as his contribution in aid of War and placed it at the disposal of the Government of the Punjab to distribute it among Imperial Indian Relief Fund, Lady O'Dwyer's Comforts for troops fund and St. John's Ambulance Fund according to the requirement. So the money was distributed as:-<sup>49</sup>

1. Imperial Indian Relief Fund	Rs. 10,000
2. St. John's Ambulance Fund	Rs. 5,000
3. Lady O'Dwyer's Comfort Fund	Rs. 5,000

In the War meeting at Faridkot, the Home Secretary announced that the Government of India had decided to raise from Faridkot State one infantry regiment 600 strong as Imperial Service Troops and to meet this from the State Exchequer the estimated

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expenditure was Rs. 2,92,497. The result of the recruitment up to October 7, 1918 was as under:-<sup>50</sup>

		Local	Outsiders	Total
1.	From commencement of War upto end of April 1918 A.D. for Imperial Service Sappers including followers	257	152	409
2.	Supplied to Indian Army from September 1917 A.D. to end of December 1917 A.D.	149	93	242
3.	Recruits supplied from January 1 to April 30, 1918 A.D.	59	15	74
4.	May 1, 1918 to July 31, 1918 enrolled in the new Imperial Service Sappers in August 1918 A.D.	392	28	420
5.	August 1, 1918 to October 7, 1918	607	18	625
		1464	306	1770

The total amount of rewards and Khillats proposed to be provided to recruiters and recruits was estimated to be Rs. 558. The Darbar was asked to send contributions of exhibits of uniforms of the Faridkot Imperial Service Sappers and Miners in connection with a project for holding an 'Allied Bazaar' in the United States for the benefit of the Red Cross and other societies in England and France. So the Darbar despatched one set of Imperial Service Sappers uniform and a complete set of uniform and photos of Colonel Nand Bahadur.<sup>51</sup> Rs. 200 was sanctioned by the State for the purchase of medicines for the Sappers Hospital.<sup>52</sup> In January 1918 A.D. the Home Secretary of the Faridkot State informed that the Raja had presented 2019 Gurmukhi books named 'Such KhandYatra' to which 120 more books were later added thus total 2139 books were sent to soldiers at the Front. Along with these 45 copies of the book entitled 'The Life of Field Marshall Earl Kitchener of Khartum, K.G.' translated in Hindi were also sent for the use of the soldiers.<sup>53</sup> In March 1918 A.D. the Raja promised to raise a half company of Sikhs from his Sate for the 45<sup>th</sup> Rattray's Sikhs which was an infantry regiment of the British Indian Army. However this promise could not be fulfilled in the given time because the State was extensively involved in making up the full strength of two double companies of Sappers and Miners.<sup>54</sup> In May 1918 A.D. the Maharaja of Faridkot generously offered Rs. 1,00,000 to be devoted to the purchase of aeroplanes.<sup>55</sup> The FaridkotDarbar did not claim the payment of War bonus from the Government as the Government had ruled that all expenditure incurred by States during the War on their Imperial Service Troops over and above the ordinary peace expenditure would be charged against His Majesty's Government.<sup>56</sup> In July 1918 A.D., the Maharaja

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contributed Rs. 2,000 to be devoted to the provision of parcels for Indian prisoners of War in Germany or Turkey.<sup>57</sup> The Darbar also supplied eighteen mules free of cost to the Government from August 1914 A.D. to March 1919 A.D.<sup>58</sup> On November 7, 1918 A.D. the Maharaja of Faridkot sent a telegram to Maharaja of Kapurthala in which he suggested that as Lt. Governor of the Punjab had done so much for the Province in encouraging contribution of men, money and material which had earned a good reputation to the Punjab so New Year's Day gift of Motor Ambulance or Flotilla boats must be made and should be named as 'Punjab Princes O'Dwyer's gift to Punjab Soldiers'. The Maharaja of Faridkot offered to contribute Rs. 20,000 if this suggestion was to be materialized.<sup>59</sup> The Faridkot State invested Rs. 2 lakhs in the Second War Loan. The people of the State contributed Rs. 4,27,983 to the Second War Loan.<sup>60</sup> The total contribution of the State from the beginning of the War till end of the War was as:-

#### Contribution in Men

At the outbreak of the War, there were 199 men serving in the Faridkot Imperial Service Sappers and 192 men in the Indian Army. A Company of the Sappers 130 strong rifles was despatched to East Africa in October 1914 A.D. The strength of the Company was subsequently raised to 200. A second company of the same strength was raised in 1918 A.D. During the War, 2368 recruits were raised for the Imperial Service Sappers and the Indian Army exclusive of 399 men from outside the State. The total number of Faridkot men who served during the War was 2759<sup>61</sup> or more than 12 percent of the eligible males of the State.

#### Distribution of Money

The cash contribution made by the State was as under:<sup>62</sup>

##### (a) Gifts:

1.	Punjab Aeroplane Fund	Rs. 75,000/-
2.	Imperial Indian Relief Fund	Rs. 73,502/-
3.	Motor Ambulances	Rs. 36,000/-
4.	Red Cross Fund	Rs. 25,751/-
5.	Our Day Fund	Rs. 23,100/-
6.	Lucky Bag Fund	Rs. 1,300/-
7.	Convalescent Homes	Rs. 7,961/-
8.	Disabled Soldier's Fund	Rs. 2,000/-
9.	Comforts for Mesopotamia	Rs. 40,000/-
10.	Lady O'Dwyer's Comforts Fund	Rs. 10,000/-
11.	Heroes Fund	Rs. 5,000/-
12.	Local Comforts Fund	Rs. 5,513/-
13.	Prisoner's Relief Fund	Rs. 2,000/-
14.	Y.M.C.A.	Rs. 1,000/-
15.	Recruiting of Camel drivers	Rs. 31,346/-
16.	Feeding of Recruits	Rs. 4,142/-
17.	Bonus to Recruits	Rs. 9,050/-
18.	Rewards	Rs. 19,383/-
19.	For Aeroplanes	Rs. 1,00,000/-
20.	Extra expenditure on Imperial Service Sappers	Rs. 6,4269/-
21.	Rewards to Officers	Rs. 1,500/-
22.	General War Expenses	Rs. 1,500/-
23.	Prince of Wale's Fund	Rs. 25,000/-
24.	Brighton Memorial	Rs. 1,500/-

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25.	Imperial Maritime League	Rs. 1,500/-
26.	R.F.C. Aid Committee	Rs. 1,500/-
27.	Books for Sikh Soldiers	Rs. 500/-
	Total	Rs. 5,69,332/-

#### Loans

In the War Loans Rs. 17,89,060 were invested of which Rs. 8,35,593 were contributed by the Darbar and the remainder by the public.

#### Contribution of Material

For the use of the Army, the State supplied 30 tents, 13 sets of artillery harness and 2,162 Maunds of Acacia bark and clothing for the use of the army which amounted to Rs. 29,545. In the way of comforts and other gifts to charitable funds (including a large quantity of floor-clothes towels and tape made in the State jail) more than 20,000 worth of articles were given.

#### Contribution of Animals

The State presented 42 horses and ponies, 27 mules and 48 camels at Rs. 32,542. So the total contribution of the State was about 2750 men, Rs. 6,50,000 by way of the gifts and nearly Rs. 18 lakhs by way of loan. The annual income of the State was about Rs. 13,50,000.<sup>63</sup> But M.S. Leigh writes that the State had spent about Rs. 7,50,000 by way of gifts.

#### Aims of the Study

The Faridkot State was a small State of the Punjab but it played a very important role in the first World War and provided wholehearted services to the British Empire. However the role of this State in the first World War has not been highlighted by the historians so this paper aims to throw light on the services provided by the Faridkot State to the British Government in the first World War. The paper will also analyze the contribution made by the officers and subjects of the State towards the successful completion of the War.

#### Conclusion:

Hence the Sikh ruler of the Faridkot State, his officers and subjects gave every kind of assistance to the British during the First World War. They showed their loyalty and sincerity towards the British Government and provided wholehearted support to the British. They recruited their men to the Indian Army who fought at various War fronts. The officers and subjects of the State also made tremendous contribution with men, money and material and earned lot of appreciation of the British Government.

#### Endnotes

1. *Faridkot State Records, Head:- Military, Basta No. 8, File No. 281, pp. 51, 99, 129, 133, 149. Punjab State Archives, Patiala here after given as PSA.*
2. *Faridkot State Records, Head:- Military, Basta No. 9, File No. 307, pp. 67, 93, 263, 284. PSA.*
3. *Faridkot State Records, Head:- Military, Basta No. 9, File No. 306, pp. 70, 145, 157, 191, 193. PSA.*
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5. *Faridkot State Records, Head:- Military, Basta No. 12, File No. 364, pp. 29, 30, 31. PSA.*
6. *Report on the Administration of Faridkot State for the year 1914-15 A.D., Lahore, 1915, p. 4. PSA.*
7. *Faridkot State Records, Head:- Military, Basta No. 12, File No. 390, p. 7. PSA.*
8. *Faridkot State Records, Head:- Military, Basta No. 11, File No. 356, pp. 35, 36. PSA.*
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62. *Faridkot State Records, Head:- Military, Basta No. 25, File No. 934, pp. 80-81. PSA.*
63. *Faridkot State Records, Head:- Military, Basta No. 25, File No. 934, pp. 80-81. PSA. Also see M.S. Leigh, The Punjab and The War, Lahore, 1922,pp. 96-97.*