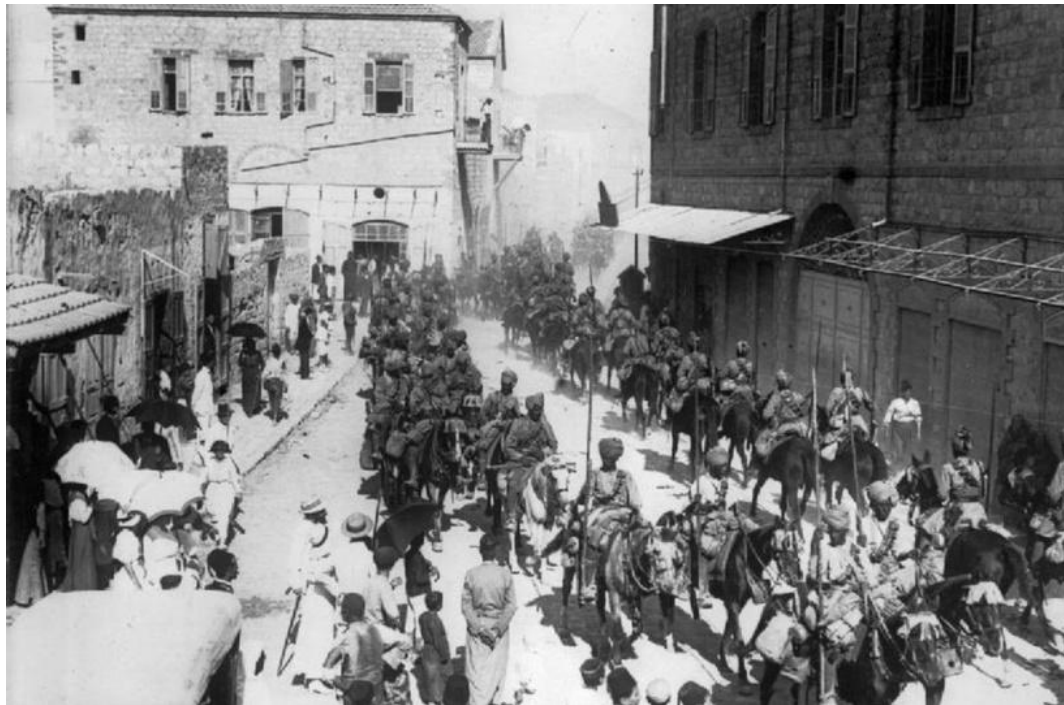# Battle of Haifa (1918): Valor of Indian Soldiers

By iastoppers | 2023-09-28 15:30:00

Battle of Haifa (1918): Valor of Indian Soldiers

The 23rd of September is designated as 'Haifa Day' in commemoration of the city's capture following a daring cavalry action by the 15th Imperial Service Cavalry Brigade during World War I.

[Ref: India Times]

Battle of Haifa (1918):

- Occurred on **23rd September 1918**, it was a crucial part of the **Sinai and Palestine Campaign** of the **First World War**.
- The **Indian 15th (Imperial Service) Cavalry Brigade**, consisting of Rajput, Sikh, and other Indian soldiers, played a decisive role, leading to the capture of **Haifa and Acre** from the Ottoman Empire.

Background:

- The **5th Cavalry Division**, including regiments from **Jodhpur, Mysore, and Hyderabad**, was assigned to capture Haifa and Acre.
- The division was part of the **Desert Mounted Corps** and was crucial for the **Egyptian Expeditionary Force's advances**.

The Battle:

- The Battle of Haifa was fought between the **allied forces** and the **Ottoman Empire**, with **Indian soldiers** playing a significant role.
- The **Jodhpur Lancers and the Mysore Lancers** executed strategic attacks, capturing **1,350 German and Ottoman prisoners** and several artillery guns and machine guns.
- The regiments incurred casualties, including **eight dead** and **34 wounded**, and several horses were killed or injured.

Aftermath:

- The subsequent capture of **Acre** solidified the success of the allied forces in the region.
- **Major Dalpat Singh** of the Jodhpur Lancers was **posthumously awarded the Military Cross**.
- The battle is a significant chapter in military history, especially for the role of Indian soldiers, and is commemorated as **Haifa Day**.

Significance:

- The Battle of Haifa is a testament to the valour of Indian soldiers, including **Sikhs** and **Rajputs**, in global conflicts.
- It highlights India's contributions during the **First World War.**