

MEDALS AND MEMORIES MINUTES



Maharaja Ganga Singh
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The Bikaner Camel Corps

Camel Corps were important to the Allied cause in Africa in both World Wars. The Bikaner Camel Corps, founded by the Maharaja Ganga Singh of the state of Bikaner, was a force of 500 when the Maharaj himself led the troops in Egypt during WWI. The troops routed the opposing Turkish forces in a camel cavalry charge at the Suez Canal in 1915. In WWII Companies Meharistes/ camel corps formed part of the Compagnies Sahariennes with motorized French and French Foreign Legion units; they saw service against Axis forces in Fezzan and southern Tunisia. Each company of Meharistes, originally recruited from the Chaamba nomadic tribe, was comprised of six officers, 36 non-commissioned French officers and troopers and 300 Chaamba troopers.