

# Resource Pack 3



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## Task

**In your group:** Your aim is to create a poster that visually represents the information you have been provided and can easily show this information. Your poster should as visual as possible – you can include as many sketches, diagrams, graphs, maps, numbers, symbols, pictures, graphs, cartoons as you want. However you may only include 15 words. Photos have also been included for your use.

## Your Information

### German Propaganda

Some propaganda aimed at Muslim soldiers was orchestrated by the German authorities in an attempt to undermine the Muslims' allegiance to Britain and the Allies. The propaganda tried to convince Muslims to change sides, or to demoralise them and shake their belief in what they were doing. As the Ottomans were fighting with the Germans, they also alerted soldiers to the fact that they were fighting against fellow Muslims.

### Halbmondlager

Until recently, the story of Halbmondlager was omitted from British history books. Known in English as the 'Half Moon Camp', Halbmondlager was a prisoner of war camp established in eastern Germany to house Muslims. The Muslim soldiers who were arrested by the Germans were placed here. The detainees, about 5,000, were reportedly treated very well at this camp. They lived in relative luxury, had access to religious books, were able to fast during Ramadan, and had visits from imams who delivered lectures and sermons. It was at this camp that Germany's first purpose-built mosque was built, designed to resemble the Dome of the Rock (though the quality of building means it no longer exists).

The main intention behind Halbmondlager was to switch the allegiances of the Muslim soldiers from Britain to Germany. The rhetoric in use was one of 'jihad' against the infidels. Up to 3,000 of the detainees were indeed recruited into the German Army to fight around the Middle East. As a general operation, though, the camp was not as much of a success as the Germans had hoped it would be.

### Aftermath

The British and French had promised the Arabs independence if they helped them against the Ottomans, and a deal had been agreed with Hussein in 1916. However, this deal was secretly forsaken in the Sykes-Picot Agreement that Britain and France completed behind the Arabs' backs, in which control of the Middle East would be split between the allied powers. In the aftermath, while Hussein declared himself 'King of the Arab Lands', the Middle East came under the rule of the Britain and France.

## Profile

### Lawrence of Arabia

Thomas Edward Lawrence, or Lawrence of Arabia, as he is known, was a British officer during the Arab Revolt against the Ottomans in 1916-1918. During the war, the British intelligence in Cairo included the Arab Bureau, which began to lead the revolt against the Ottoman Empire in the Middle East. It is to Cairo, to work for the intelligence staff, that Lawrence would first be sent in 1914.

He was then moved to the Kingdom of Hejaz (now in Saudi Arabia) in 1916 to work with the Hashemites. There, Lawrence would help plan tactics to weaken the Ottomans (who fought on the side of the Germans), such as targeting their transport links, and fighting them in specific areas. Lawrence joined in the fighting regularly. His input helped take several regions from the Ottomans, such as Aqaba in Jordan and Damascus in Syria.

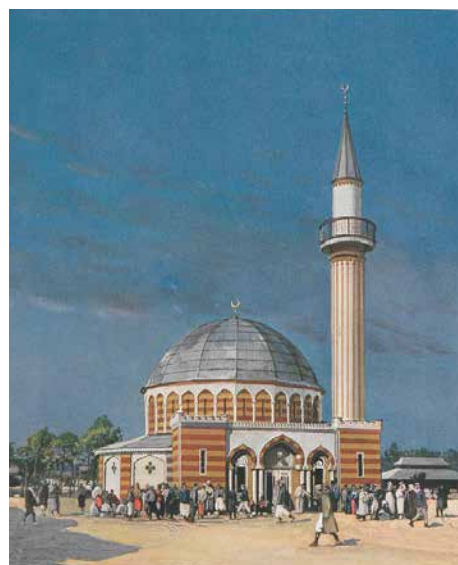
Crucially, Lawrence played a significant part in convincing the Arabs that the British policy worked in their best interests. Lawrence's expeditions were sensationalised by an American reporter, Lowell Thomas, as well as by his own autobiographical accounts. Most of all, in 1962, the acclaimed movie, *Lawrence of Arabia*, depicted his adventures and established his place in the British heritage of the First World War.



WW1 Propaganda Poster (National Army Museum)



Portrait of Hussein bin Ali  
(Public Domain)



Painting of German Mosque built for  
Muslim Prisoners of War during WW1  
(Public Domain)