

## The Siege Of Kut Al Amara At War In Mesopotamia 1915 1916 Twentieth Century Battles

The siege of Kut is a story of blunders, sacrifice, imprisonment and escape. The allied campaign in Mesopotamia began in 1914 as a relatively simple operation to secure the oilfields in the Shatt-al-Arab delta and Basra area. Initially it was a great success, but as the army pressed towards Baghdad its poor logistic support, training, equipment and command left it isolated and besieged by the Turks. By 1916 the army had not been relieved, and on 29 April 1916, the British Army suffered one of the worst defeats in its military history. Major-General Sir Charles Townshend surrendered his allied force to the Turks in the Mesopotamian (now Iraq) town of Kut-al-Amara. Over 13,000 troops, British and Indian, went into captivity; many would not survive their incarceration. In Kut 1916, Colonel Crowley recounts this dramatic tale and its terrible aftermath.

Besieged examines the most important sieges in history—the actions and motivations of attackers and defenders along with conditions inside and outside the city walls. \*

Examines 100 great sieges, from Jericho in 1405 B.C. to Grozny in 1997 \* Establishes the historical background of each siege, describes the siege itself in both military and human terms, and analyzes the results \* Provides more than 75 maps as well as tactical diagrams, archival photographs, and artworks \* Includes a glossary explaining unfamiliar military terms, from abatis to zig-zags

Typescript recollections 'Personal Recollections of the Mesopotamian Campaign' (nd);

Typescript recollections 'Recollections of the Siege of Kut' (nd); 3 maps relating to the

Siege of Kut and the defence of Woolpress village (nd); Photocopied extract 'A Gallant

Turk in Defeat' by Edgar Stern-Rubarth (nd); ca. 50 manuscript and typescript letters

and questionnaire answers from fellow POW (Prisoner of War) officers (1970-1971); 5

large photographs (1915-1916); Cast list for Yuzgad POW (Prisoner of War) Camp

production of 'The Taming of the Shrew' (nd); Photocopied extract from Regimental

History 'The Siege of Kut-al-Amara' (nd); Typescript recollections 'Background to

Mesopotamia' (nd); 72 photographs (1914-1961); Typescript recollections 'Kut to

Anatolia as Officer POW' (nd); Typescript letter from Kut Garrison Dinner Club [1964];

Press cutting 'The Siege of Kut; Memories of Twenty Years Ago' by E.H. Keeling [29

April 1936]; Turkish Red Crescent postcard to Mrs J. Bouch (nd); Typed transcript of an

interview recorded with Peter Liddle (June 1973).

Main description: The U.S.-led conquest and occupation of Iraq have kept that troubled

country in international headlines since 2003. For America's major Coalition ally, Great

Britain, however, this latest incursion into the region played out against the dramatic

backdrop of imperial history: Britain's fateful invasion of Mesopotamia in 1914 and the

creation of a new nation from the shards of war. The objectives of the expedition sent

by the British Government of India were primarily strategic: to protect the Raj, impress

Britain's military power upon Arabs chafing under Ottoman rule, and secure the Persian

oil supply. But over the course of the Mesopotamian campaign, these goals expanded,

and by the end of World War I Britain was committed to controlling the entire region

from Suez to India. The conquest of Mesopotamia and the creation of Iraq were the

central acts in this boldly opportunistic bid for supremacy. Charles Townshend provides

a compelling account of the atrocious, unnecessary suffering inflicted on the

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expedition's mostly Indian troops, which set the pattern for Britain's follow-up campaigns in Iraq and Afghanistan over the next seven years. He chronicles the overconfidence, incompetence, and dangerously vague policy that distorted the mission, and examines the steps by which an initially cautious strategic operation led to imperial expansion on a vast scale. *Desert Hell* is a cautionary tale for makers of national policy. And for those with an interest in imperial history, it raises searching questions about Britain's quest for global power and the indelible consequences of those actions for the Middle East and the world.

Featuring over 1,000 alphabetically arranged, biographical entries, *Who's Who in World War One* builds up a complete and vivid picture of the major figures of the Great War. The subjects are drawn not only from the political and military spheres of all thirty-two nations involved, but also from the social and cultural life of the period. This book's breadth of coverage makes it the definitive biographical guide to the First World War; \* from the British air ace, Albert Ball, to the German foreign secretary, Richard von Kuhlmann \* from David Lloyd George to Rasputin \* from the British war poet Siegfried Sassoon to the Serbian assassin Trifko Grabez and the Emperor Wilhelm II. Each entry provides biographical data and basic factual information about its subject's role in the Great War, and in the case of major figures there is also an assessment of their reputation in the light of current scholarship. Maps, cross-referencing, a list of military ranks, a guide to further reading and a thorough introduction complete what is at once a comprehensive work of reference and a fascinating overview of a crucial period in twentieth century history.

The Siege of Kut-al-Amara *Tristan/Isolde Publishing* *The Siege of Kut-al-Amara At War in Mesopotamia, 1915-1916 Twentieth-Century Battles*

The Indian army fought on the western front with the British Expeditionary Force (BEF) from 1914 to 1918. The traditional interpretations of its performance have been dominated by ideas that it was a failure. This book offers a radical reconsideration by revealing new answers to the debate's central questions, such as whether the Indian army 'saved' the BEF from defeat in 1914, or whether Indian troops were particularly prone to self-inflicting wounds and fleeing the trenches. It looks at the Indian army from top to bottom, from generals at headquarters to snipers in no man's land. It takes a global approach, exploring the links between the Indian army's 1914–18 campaigning in France and Belgium and its pre-1914 small wars in Asia and Africa, and comparing the performance of the Indian regiments on the western front to those in China, East Africa, Mesopotamia and elsewhere.

Had this book been in print in 2003, things would have been different.

*A Great and Urgent Imperial Service* investigates the reasons behind Great Britain's combined military and naval offensive expeditions of Europe during the Great War. These campaigns have been branded by various historians as unnecessary sideshows to the conflict waged on the European continent. Pattee argues that the various campaigns were necessary adjuncts to the war in Europe, and fulfilled an important strategic purpose by protecting British trade where it was most vulnerable. Since international trade was essential for

maintaining the island nation's way of life, Great Britain required freedom of the seas in order to maintain its global trade. While the German High Seas Fleet constituted a serious threat that placed the British coast at grave risk, forcing the Royal Navy to concentrate in home waters, the importance of the island empire's global trade made it a valuable and vulnerable target to Germany's various commerce raiders—as Admiral Tirpitz's risk theory had anticipated.

An astonishing retelling of twentieth-century history from the Ottoman perspective, delivering profound new insights into World War I and the contemporary Middle East Between 1911 and 1922, a series of wars would engulf the Ottoman Empire and its successor states, in which the central conflict, of course, is World War I—a story we think we know well. As Sean McMeekin shows us in this revelatory new history of what he calls the “wars of the Ottoman succession,” we know far less than we think. *The Ottoman Endgame* brings to light the entire strategic narrative that led to an unstable new order in postwar Middle East—much of which is still felt today. *The Ottoman Endgame: War, Revolution, and the Making of the Modern Middle East* draws from McMeekin's years of groundbreaking research in newly opened Ottoman and Russian archives. With great storytelling flair, McMeekin makes new the epic stories we know from the Ottoman front, from Gallipoli to the exploits of Lawrence in Arabia, and introduces a vast range of new stories to Western readers. His accounts of the lead-up to World War I and the Ottoman Empire's central role in the war itself offers an entirely new and deeper vision of the conflict. Harnessing not only Ottoman and Russian but also British, German, French, American, and Austro-Hungarian sources, the result is a truly pioneering work of scholarship that gives full justice to a multitiered war involving many belligerents. McMeekin also brilliantly reconceives our inherited Anglo-French understanding of the war's outcome and the collapse of the empire that followed. The book chronicles the emergence of modern Turkey and the carve-up of the rest of the Ottoman Empire as it has never been told before, offering a new perspective on such issues as the ethno-religious bloodletting and forced population transfers which attended the breakup of empire, the Balfour Declaration, the toppling of the caliphate, and the partition of Iraq and Syria—bringing the contemporary consequences into clear focus. Every so often, a work of history completely reshapes our understanding of a subject of enormous historical and contemporary importance. *The Ottoman Endgame* is such a book, an instantly definitive and thrilling example of narrative history as high art.

This thrilling new volume from Martin Bowman focusses on British, Canadian, Australian and German soldiers and airmen who were captured during the First World War. Determined that they wouldnt spend the rest of the conflict incarcerated uselessly behind bars, they endeavored to escape. These are their stories. All aspects of prison life are covered here, and the author examines the various escape tactics that were employed by British soldiers and airmen held in PoW camps all over Germany and Turkey. In order to provide a balanced

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account, the author has also uncovered stories of German navy and army escapees who attempted to flee from England. Each chapter is preceded by an account which explains the types of camps used in Britain and Germany, the numbers involved, the food, the camp money system for worker prisoners and a general appreciation of the conditions and chronology. Firsthand accounts from the prisoners themselves are then woven into the picture, creating an authentic sense of the PoW experience. The emphasis of this unique book is placed on the human story of the main characters, the unparalleled action on the Western Front and the interaction and camaraderie experienced between soldiers and airmen held in prison camps in England, Germany and Turkey during the Second World War.

During the first four decades of the twentieth century, the British Indian Army possessed an illusion of racial and religious inclusivity. The army recruited diverse soldiers, known as the "Martial Races," including British Christians, Hindustani Muslims, Punjabi Sikhs, Hindu Rajputs, Pathans from northwestern India, and "Gurkhas" from Nepal. As anti-colonial activism intensified, military officials incorporated some soldiers' religious traditions into the army to keep them disciplined and loyal. They facilitated acts such as the fast of Ramadan for Muslim soldiers and allowed religious swords among Sikhs to recruit men from communities where anti-colonial sentiment grew stronger. Consequently, Indian nationalists and anti-colonial activists charged the army with fomenting racial and religious divisions. In *Faithful Fighters*, Kate Imy explores how military culture created unintended dialogues between soldiers and civilians, including Hindu nationalists, Sikh revivalists, and pan-Islamic activists. By the 1920s and '30s, the army constructed military schools and academies to isolate soldiers from anti-colonial activism. While this carefully managed military segregation crumbled under the pressure of the Second World War, Imy argues that the army militarized racial and religious difference, creating lasting legacies for the violent partition and independence of India, and the endemic warfare and violence of the post-colonial world.

"This rare testimony of a survivor of the Armenian genocide tells the dramatic story of John Minassian, a young man who witnessed the loss of his family and friends but managed to escape with his life by concealing his identity and connecting with an underground network of survivors, ultimately building a new life in the United States."--

During the Great War almost 650 men enlisted from the small market town of Alton, Hampshire. These soldiers served all over the globe, including the Western Front, India, Mesopotamia, Salonika, Turkey and Russia, and were never the same again; some choosing to tell their stories, others desperately trying to forget what they had experienced. But they were the lucky ones: around a third of those who left for distant shores were never to return and instead lie buried in cemeteries across the world. The stories these men couldn't tell themselves are uncovered here as a monument to their bravery and

sacrifice. Here's to the Men of Alton is a collection of personal accounts of courage and hardship which provides a lasting tribute to those ordinary men who gave their lives for King and Country.

This is a comprehensive new operational military history of the Ottoman army during the First World War. Drawing from archives, official military histories, personal war narratives and sizable Turkish secondary literature, it tells the incredible story of the Ottoman army's struggle from the mountains of the Caucasus to the deserts of Arabia and the bloody shores of Gallipoli. The Ottoman army, by opening new fronts, diverted and kept sizeable units of British, Russian and French forces away from the main theatres and even sent reinforcements to Austro-Hungary and Bulgaria. Against all odds the Ottoman army ultimately achieved some striking successes, not only on the battlefield, but in their total mobilization of the empire's meagre human and economic resources. However, even by the terrible standards of the First World War, these achievements came at a terrible price in casualties and, ultimately, loss of territory. Thus, instead of improving the integrity and security of the empire, the war effectively dismantled it and created situations and problems hitherto undreamed of by a besieged Ottoman leadership. In a unique account, Uyar revises our understanding of the war in the Middle East.

One of the most devastating armed conflicts in history, World War I completely transformed the social and political landscape of the world in four short years. It also marked the appearance of the new modern lifestyle, one that always contained the grim prospect of the possible recurrence of war. Ian V. Hogg's *The A to Z of World War I* provides a dual approach to the study of this historically significant event.

The siege of Kut is a story of blunders, sacrifice, imprisonment, and escape. Initially a great success in 1914, the Allied Mesopotamian campaign turned sour as the army pressed towards Baghdad and its poor logistic support, training, equipment, and command left it isolated and besieged by the Turks. On April 29, 1916, the British Army suffered one of the worst defeats in its military history. Major-General Sir Charles Townshend surrendered his Allied force to the Turks and more than 13,000 troops, British and Indian, went into captivity; many would not survive their incarceration. In *Kut 1916*, Colonel Crowley recounts this dramatic tale and its terrible aftermath.

Previously published in hardcover as *War: The Definitive Visual History* War has been central to the rise and fall of civilizations since the dawn of time. The history of warfare first emerges from legend in Mesopotamia, the cradle of civilization, around 3,000 years before the birth of Christ. The first armies that we know about fought in Sumeria, Ancient Egypt, and Syria. From these first battles, fought with spears or axes on horseback or on foot, *The Illustrated Encyclopedia of Warfare* traces the campaigns and conflicts that have shaped world history and examines the evolution of military tactics and technology. The story of the development from these primitive battles to the global conflicts of the 20th century and the

modern "War on Terror" is the story of humanity itself, reflecting the same political, cultural and technological forces that have defined human history. From longbows to laser-guided missiles; from chariots to jet aircraft; and from Samurai warriors to SAS soldiers, *The Illustrated Encyclopedia of Warfare* provides the definitive visual chronicle of this intense, brutal, and often heroic tale. War combines a coherent and compelling spread-by-spread historical narrative with a wealth of supporting features on weapons and technology, strategy and tactics, the experience of war, and history's fighting elites to recount the epic 5,000-year story of warfare and combat through the ages.

This volume gathers an international cast of scholars to examine the unprecedented range of colonial encounters during the First World War. More than four million men of color, and an even greater number of white Europeans and Americans, crisscrossed the globe. Others, in occupied areas, behind the warzone or in neutral countries, were nonetheless swept into the maelstrom. From local encounters in New Zealand, Britain and East Africa to army camps and hospitals in France and Mesopotamia, from cafes and clubs in Salonika and London, to anticolonial networks in Germany, the USA and the Dutch East Indies, this volume examines the actions and experiences of a varied company of soldiers, medics, writers, photographers, and revolutionaries to reconceptualize this conflict as a turning point in the history of global encounters. How did people interact across uneven intersections of nationality, race, gender, class, religion and language? How did encounters – direct and mediated, forced and unforced – shape issues from cross-racial intimacy and identity formation to anti-colonial networks, civil rights movements and visions of a post-war future? The twelve chapters delve into spaces and processes of encounter to explore how the conjoined realities of war, race and empire were experienced, recorded and instrumentalized.

*The Great Escape for the Great War: the astonishing true story of two World War I prisoners who pulled off one of the most ingenious escapes of all time.* "Fox unspools Jones and Hill's delightfully elaborate scheme in nail-biting episodes that advance like a narrative Rube Goldberg machine."—*The New York Times Book Review* Imprisoned in a remote Turkish POW camp during World War I, having survived a two-month forced march and a terrifying shootout in the desert, two British officers, Harry Jones and Cedric Hill, join forces to bamboozle their iron-fisted captors. To stave off despair and boredom, Jones takes a handmade Ouija board and fakes elaborate séances for his fellow prisoners. Word gets around, and one day an Ottoman official approaches Jones with a query: Could Jones contact the spirit world to find a vast treasure rumored to be buried nearby? Jones, a trained lawyer, and Hill, a brilliant magician, use the Ouija board—and their keen understanding of the psychology of deception—to build a trap for their captors that will ultimately lead them to freedom. A gripping nonfiction thriller, *The Confidence Men* is the story of one of the only known con games played for a good cause—and of a profound but unlikely friendship. Had it

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not been for “the Great War,” Jones, the Oxford-educated son of a British lord, and Hill, a mechanic on an Australian sheep ranch, would never have met. But in pain, loneliness, hunger, and isolation, they formed a powerful emotional and intellectual alliance that saved both of their lives. Margalit Fox brings her “nose for interesting facts, the ability to construct a taut narrative arc, and a Dickens-level gift for concisely conveying personality” (Kathryn Schulz, New York) to this tale of psychological strategy that is rife with cunning, danger, and moments of high farce that rival anything in *Catch-22*.

The Tomlinson Prize–winning, “stimulating and informative” account of one of the most significant clashes on the Eastern Front of the Great War (*Journal of Military History*). Bloodier than Verdun, the battles for Fortress Przemył in present-day Poland were pivotal to victory on the Eastern Front during the early years of World War I. Control of the fortress changed hands three times during the fall of 1914. In 1915, the Austro-Hungarian armies launched three major offensives to penetrate the Russian encirclement and relieve the 120,000 people trapped in the besieged fortress. Drawing on myriad sources, historian Graydon A. Tunstall tells of the impossible conditions facing the garrison: starvation, “horse-meat” diets, deplorable medical care, prostitution, alcoholism, dismal morale, and a failed breakout attempt. By the time the fortress finally fell to the Russians on March 22, 1915, the Hapsburg Army had sustained 800,000 casualties; the Russians, over a million. The fortress, however, had served its purpose. Tunstall argues that the besieged garrison kept the Russian army from advancing farther and obliterating the already weakening Austro-Hungarian forces at the outset of the War to End All Wars. The World War I Historical Association awarded *Written in Blood* the 2016 Tomlinson Prize.

When war broke out between the British and Turkish empires in 1914, the 6th (Poona) Division sailed from India to Basra to bolster Britain’s allies, deny the port to enemy shipping, and secure Britain’s Persian oil supplies. Further expansion followed: the capture of Al-Amara was the British Army’s greatest victory of 1915. When an advance on Baghdad was repulsed, the Siege of Kut became the British Army’s longest siege and greatest surrender. Attempts to relieve Kut led to unsuccessful battles that were bloody and muddy even by Western Front standards. Under new leadership, revitalized and reinforced, the British avenged their defeat when Baghdad was captured in March 1917. Thereafter, the British Empire committed, in campaigns of limited value to the overall war effort, huge levels of manpower and materiel desperately needed elsewhere. What was created was modern Iraq and the first Arab government in Baghdad in over 400 years. This detailed history places the campaign in context of Allied operations in the Middle East and sheds light on several unsung heroes of the war, including General Charles Townshend whose spectacular 1915 victories led to humiliating defeat and captivity in 1916; General Frederick Stanley Maude whose March 1917 entry into Baghdad preceded General Allenby’s entry into Jerusalem by eight months; and Miss Gertrude Bell, a

“female Lawrence of Arabia” who played a central role in the creation of the new Iraqi state.

Field Marshal Claude Auchinleck is a study not only of the individual but also of how the British Army, Indian Army and the Empire were transformed during his long military career. Auchinleck was commissioned into the Indian Army from 1904 and served with distinction against the Turks in Egypt and the Mesopotamian campaign, earning a DSO. Between the wars he was involved in the pacification of the Northwest Frontier (now Pakistan). In the Second World War he briefly led a division in the ill-fated Norway campaign before being appointed Commander-in-Chief, India. He is best remembered for his controversial stint in command in North Africa, where he replaced Wavell in July 1941. He halted Rommel at the First Battle of El Alamein but was then replaced by Montgomery and resumed as C-in-C India, where his logistical support for Fourteenth Army was vital to success in Burma. Post-war he planned and oversaw Partition and British withdrawal from India. Here, as in North Africa, interference from his political masters added to the burdens of command. Evan McGilvray appraises Auchinleck’s long and varied career in its entirety.

The first study of the British Expeditionary Force in 1914 to incorporate extensive archival research, this book investigates the ideas and behavior of officers at the beginning of the conflict.

Provocative and entertaining study of sieges in history  
Commentary on the nature and evolution of combat across the centuries  
Bruce Allen Watson examines seven sieges: Jerusalem at the end of the First Crusade in 1099, Malta in 1565, Sebastopol during the Crimean War, Kut-al-Amara in World War I, Singapore in World War II, Dien Bien Phu, and the 1991 Gulf War.

Indian Expeditionary Force D landed at the head of the Persian Gulf on 7 November 1914 and quickly gained control of the area around Basra. Since the British army was already involved in drawn-out trench warfare in France, and the outlook there was far from bright, it seemed odd that the British government would commit troops to another campaign. The traditionally accepted rationale behind this move has been the protection of oil supplies used by the Royal Navy - but the campaign veered seriously away from its original intent. What followed was perhaps the finest example of blind political ambition in wartime. In April 1915, another division was added to Force D; and its new commander, General Sir John Nixon, arrived in Mesopotamia with orders to protect the oil supply, establish British control in the province of Basra, and prepare plans for a possible future offensive on Baghdad. The campaign against the Turks was a model of daring and sacrifice in the Middle Eastern desert. Successive victories encouraged the authorities in India to expand the campaign to aim at Baghdad. At this point the campaign was doomed to failure. The lack of direction, policy, and cooperation between Nixon, India, and London resulted in the total lack of a suitable logistic framework in Mesopotamia. An unwitting conspiracy of hesitant and uninformed leaders in London, greedy politicians in India, and aggressive



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"men on the spot" brought about the longest siege in British history and one of the great military disasters of this century. The appalling suffering and loss of the 6th Indian Division provoked such a public outcry in Britain that the government was obliged to institute a parliamentary investigation. The resulting Mesopotamia Commission rocked the nation and the government alike. This book probes the rationale behind the British interest in the Middle East, the invasion of Mesopotamia, the successes that drove the political aspirations higher, and the brilliance of the leadership and soldiery in contrast to the blindness of zealous politicians. It gives the most in-depth analysis of the Mesopotamia Commission anywhere and apportions blame where it is due and forgiveness where it is necessary. It is a story of soldiers at their best who were sacrificed for politics at its worst.

A must-have for history lovers and armchair tacticians everywhere, *1001 Battles That Changed the Course of History* looks at mankind's last 5000 years of combat, and how they shaped the world today. From small-scale battles of the ancient world to devastating modern conflicts, *1001 Battles That Changed the Course of History* provides a definitive record of the combats of the last 5000 years which shaped the political and cultural landscape of the world. From the battles of the ancient world involving only a few thousand infantry, to the devastation of the World Wars, and to the efficient, tactical, military actions of today, this book includes the seminal details about key battles, how the battle fit in a war campaign, and the wider political and social impact it had on the region as a whole. *1001 Battles That Changed the Course of History* is illustrated throughout with ancient carvings, detail-filled tapestries, dramatic paintings, and evocative photography. Award-winning historian R. G. Grant has assembled an expert team of contributors to provide incisive and insightful descriptions of every battle featured. From the Battle of Troy and the Siege of Antioch, to the Battle of Gettysburg and Iwo Jima, this book traces the changing face of warfare around the globe and throughout history. This arresting volume is a worthy addition to any history buff's shelf.

One of the oldest known breeds of domesticated dogs, the Saluki traveled throughout the Middle East with desert tribes, who valued the dogs for their ability to hunt gazelles. Famously painted on the walls of the Pharaohs' tombs, the Salukis' history intrigued English dog enthusiasts who were instrumental in popularizing the breed and importing it to Europe and the United States in the early 20th century. This book tells the story of those who brought the Saluki to the West, most notably Florence Amherst, who discovered the dogs while in Egypt and went on to breed 50 litters. Other world travelers who fell under the Salukis' spell included Lady Anne Blunt, Austen Layard and Gertrude Bell. Also covered are lesser-known Saluki aficionados, mainly military officers who hunted with their hounds in Iraq, Syria, Palestine, and Egypt and sought to replicate that experience at home.

Kut-al-Amara was the site of one of the longest sieges ever endured by British

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forces. On December 3, 1915, the 6th Indian Division under Charles Townshend sought refuge from pursuing Turkish forces inside the walled town. With no heavy artillery to destroy fortifications, the Turks circled the town, subjecting it to intermittent shelling, small arms fire, and infantry attacks. British relief units made repeated attempts to break through the Turkish lines. Meanwhile, within Kut-al-Amara a different sort of war was going on. Townshend's division was made up of Muslim sepoy, who had misgivings about fighting the Turks. Not only were the Turks fellow Muslims but they served the Ottoman Sultan, recognized by many as the Caliph, the spiritual and temporal head of Islam. The Turks played upon this potentially divided loyalty with a propaganda campaign intended to encourage desertion. Then, when a shortage of food forced the garrison to supplement its rations with horsemeat, Muslim and Hindu soldiers were faced with violating dietary restrictions in order to survive. For British officers, prolonging the defense of Kut was complicated by the need to combat disaffection and starvation among the Indian rank and file. A significant event in the British campaign in Mesopotamia, the Siege of Kut-al-Amara offers important insights into Britain's imperial army and its role in the Middle East during World War I.

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