

# T. E. Lawrence

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## Thomas Edward Lawrence

August 16, 1888 – May 19, 1935 (aged 46)



T. E. Lawrence in the white silk robes of the Sherifs of Mecca.

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<b>Nickname</b>	Lawrence of Arabia
<b>Place of birth</b>	Tremadog, Caernarfonshire, North Wales
<b>Place of death</b>	Bovington Camp, Dorset, England
<b>Allegiance</b>	United Kingdom
<b>Service/branch</b>	Royal Air Force
<b>Years of service</b>	1914-1918
<b>Rank</b>	Lieutenant colonel
<b>Awards</b>	Companion in the Order of the Bath Distinguished Service Order Légion d'Honneur

Lieutenant-Colonel **Thomas Edward Lawrence**, CB, DSO (August 16, 1888 – May 19, 1935), known professionally as **T. E. Lawrence**, was a British soldier renowned especially for his liaison role during the Arab Revolt of 1916-18, but whose vivid personality and writings, along with the extraordinary breadth and variety of his activities and associations, have made him the object of fascination throughout the world as "**Lawrence of Arabia**".

Lawrence's public image was due in part to U.S. traveller and journalist Lowell Thomas'

sensationalised reportage of the Revolt, as well as to Lawrence's autobiographical account, *Seven Pillars of Wisdom*.

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## Early years

Lawrence was born in 1888 in Tremadog, Caernarfonshire, North Wales. His Anglo-Irish father, Sir Thomas Robert Tighe Chapman, seventh Baronet of Westmeath in Ireland, had abandoned his wife, Edith, for his daughters' governess, Sarah Junner. The couple did not marry. Sir Thomas and Sarah had five illegitimate sons, of whom Thomas Edward was the second-eldest. The family later lived at 2 Polstead Road (now marked with a blue plaque) in Oxford, under the names of Mr and Mrs Lawrence. Thomas Edward (known in the family as "Ned") attended the City of Oxford High School for Boys, where one of the four houses is now named "Lawrence" in his honour. In about 1905, Lawrence ran away from home and served for a few weeks as a boy soldier with the Royal Garrison Artillery at St Mawes Castle in Cornwall; he was bought out.

From 1907 Lawrence was educated at Jesus College, Oxford. During the summers of 1907 and 1908, he toured France by bicycle, collecting photographs, drawings and measurements of castles dating from the crusader period.

Subsequently, in the summer of 1909, he set out alone on a three-month walking tour of crusader castles in Syria, during which he travelled 1,000 miles on foot. Lawrence graduated with First Class Honours after submitting a thesis on *The influence of the Crusades on European Military Architecture – to the end of the 12th century*; the thesis was based on his own field research in France and the Middle East.

On completing his degree (1910), he commenced postgraduate research in medieval pottery with a Senior Demy at Magdalen College, Oxford, which he abandoned after he was offered the opportunity to become a practicing archaeologist in the Middle East. In December 1910 he sailed for Beirut, and on arrival went to Jbail (Byblos), where he studied Arabic. He then went to work on the excavations at Carchemish, near Jerablus in northern Syria, where he worked under D.G. Hogarth and R. Campbell-Thompson of the British Museum. He would later state that everything that he had accomplished, he owed to Hogarth.<sup>[1]</sup> While excavating ancient Mesopotamian sites, Lawrence met Gertrude Bell, who was to influence him for much of his time in the Middle East.

In late summer 1911, Lawrence returned to

England for a brief sojourn. By November he was en route to Beirut for a second season at Carchemish, where he was to work with Leonard Woolley. Prior to resuming work there, however, he briefly worked with William Flinders Petrie at Kafr Ammar in Egypt.

Lawrence continued making trips to the Middle East as a field archaeologist until the outbreak of World War I. In January 1914, Woolley and Lawrence were co-opted by the British military as an archaeological smokescreen for a British military survey of the Negev Desert. They were funded by the Palestine Exploration Fund to search for an area referred to in the Bible as the "Wilderness of Zin"; along the way, they undertook an archaeological survey of the Negev Desert. The Negev was of strategic importance, as it would have to be crossed by any Turkish army attacking Egypt in the event of war. Woolley and Lawrence subsequently published a report of the expedition's archaeological findings,<sup>[2]</sup> but a more important result was an updated mapping of the area, with special attention to features of military relevance such as water sources. At this time, Lawrence visited Aqaba and Petra.

From March to May, Lawrence worked again at

Carchemish. Following the outbreak of hostilities in August 1914, on the advice of S.F. Newcombe, Lawrence did not immediately enlist in the British Army but held back until October.

## Arab Revolt

At the outbreak of World War I Lawrence was a British University post-graduate researcher who with, by, and under his own passport and visas had for years entered and traveled

extensively within the Turkish Empire provinces of the Levant (Trans-Jordan & Palestine) and Mesopotamia (Syria & Iraq) under his own name. As such he became known to the Turkish Interior Ministry authorities and their European (German) “friends” and technical advisors who he came into contact



Emir Faisal's camel-mounted irregulars, Palestine, 1918.

with in order to pass into and then from one province within the Empire to another. As a fellow European Lawrence came into contact with the Turk's German technical advisors as a European himself living, working and operating in a "non-white" country; traveling over the German designed, built and financed railways during the course of his travels and researches.

Thus on the eve of WWI the Turks would have already regarded Lawrence as a relatively well known English foreigner who, was also known to have detailed knowledge of Turkish frontier territories bordering on the British sphere of influence at Suez and in the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan. Once the Turkish Empire joined the war as a co-belligerent with Germany, the Turkish Interior Ministry would have regarded Lawrence and men like him as presumptively suspect enemy aliens who very likely would be spies working for their Governments. The Turks on their own or under the tutelage of their German advisors would have been on the lookout for all such persons, who might attempt reenter their Empire and reestablish contacts with their friends and or dissidents that they had met during their travels before the war.

Even if Lawrence had not volunteered the British



would have probably drafted him as a reserve officer for his first-hand, detailed, eye-witness knowledge of the Levant, Syria and Mesopotamian territories and peoples. His posting to Cairo on the Intelligence Staff of the GOC Middle East was therefore inevitable. It is against this backdrop that the actions of Lt. Colonel Lawrence should be viewed.

Contrary to modern popular myth it was not Lawrence or the Army that conceptualized a campaign of internal insurgency and rebellion against the Turks in the Middle East, it was the Arab Bureau of the Foreign Office. The Arab Bureau had long appraised as high, the likelihood that a campaign instigated and financed by outside powers, supporting the break-away minded tribes and regional challengers to the Turk's centralized rule of their empire would pay great dividends in the diversion of material effort that would be needed to meet such a challenge. The Foreign Office's Arab Bureau was the first to recognize what is today correctly called the asymmetry of this form of conflict. The Turks would have to devote a hundred or a thousand times the resources to contain the threat of such an internal rebellion than would be the cost of sponsoring it, on the part of the Allies.

At that point in the British Foreign Office's thinking they were not considering the region as candidate territories for formal incorporation and addition to the British Empire, but only as an extension of the range of British Imperial influence. And the weakening and destruction of a German ally, the Turkish Empire.

During the war, he fought with Arab irregular troops under the command of Emir Faisal, a son of Sherif Hussein of Mecca, in extended guerrilla operations against the armed forces of the Ottoman Empire. Lawrence's major contribution to World War I was convincing Arab leaders to co-ordinate their revolt to aid British interests. He persuaded the Arabs not to drive the Ottomans out of Medina, thus forcing the Turks to tie up troops in the city garrison. The Arabs were then able to direct most of their attention to the Hejaz railway that supplied the garrison. This tied up more Ottoman troops, who were forced to protect the railway and repair the constant damage.

In 1917 Lawrence arranged a joint action with the Arab irregulars and forces under Auda Abu Tayi (until then in the employ of the Ottomans) against the strategically located port city of Aqaba. He was

promoted to major in the same year. On July 6, after an overland attack, Aqaba fell to Arab forces. Some 12 months later, Lawrence was involved in the capture of Damascus in the final weeks of the war and was promoted to lieutenant colonel in 1918.

As was his habit when travelling before the war, Lawrence adopted many local customs and traditions (many photographs show him in the desert wearing white Arab garb and riding camels), and he soon became a confidant of Prince Faisal.

During the closing years of the war he sought to convince his superiors in the British government that Arab independence was in their interests, with mixed success.

In 1918 he co-operated with war correspondent Lowell Thomas for a short period. During this time Thomas and his cameraman Harry Chase shot much film and many photographs, which Thomas used in a highly lucrative film that toured the world after the war.

Lawrence was made a Companion in the Order of the Bath and awarded the Distinguished Service Order and the French Légion d'Honneur, though in

October 1918 he refused to be made a Knight Commander of the British Empire.

## Post-war years



Emir Faisal's party at Versailles, during the Paris Conference of 1919. Left to right: Rustum Haidar, N Prince Faisal, Captain Pisani (behind Faisal), T. E. Faisal's black slave (name unknown), Captain Hass

Immediately after the war, Lawrence worked for the Foreign Office, attending the Paris Peace Conference between January and May as a member of Faisal's delegation.

Lowell Thomas's film was seen by four million people in the post-war years, giving Lawrence great publicity. Until then, Lawrence had little influence, but soon newspapers began to report his opinions. Consequently he served for much of 1921 as an advisor to Winston Churchill at the Colonial Office.

Lawrence was ambivalent about Thomas's publicity, calling him a "vulgar man," though he saw Thomas's show several times. Starting in 1922, Lawrence attempted to join the Royal Air Force as an airman under the name John Hume Ross. He was soon exposed and subsequently forced out of the RAF. He changed his name to T.E. Shaw and joined the Royal Tank Corps in 1923. He was unhappy there and repeatedly petitioned to rejoin the RAF, which finally admitted him in August 1925. A fresh burst of publicity after the publication of *Revolt in the Desert* (see below) resulted in his assignment to a remote base in British India in late 1926, where he remained until the end of 1928. At that time he was

forced to return to the UK after rumours began to circulate that he was involved in espionage activities.

He purchased several small plots of land in Chingford, built a hut and swimming pool there, and visited frequently. This was demolished in 1930 when the Corporation of London acquired the land.

He continued serving in the RAF, specialising in high-speed boats and professing happiness, and it was with considerable regret that he left the service at the end of his enlistment in March 1935.

Lawrence was a keen motorcyclist, and, at different times, had owned seven Brough Superior motorcycles.<sup>[3]</sup>

## Death

A few weeks

after leaving the service, aged 46, he was fatally injured in a motorcycle accident in Dorset, close to his cottage, Clouds Hill, near Wareham (now run by the National Trust and open to the public). The



Lawrence on a Brough Superior motorcycle at Cranwell, ca. 1925-26.

accident occurred because of a dip in the road that obstructed his view of two boys on their bicycles; he swerved to avoid them, lost control, and was thrown over the handlebars of his motorcycle. He died six days later.<sup>[4]</sup>

Some sources mistakenly claim that Lawrence was buried in St Paul's Cathedral; in reality, only a bust of him was placed in the crypt. His actual final resting place is the Dorset village of Moreton. Moreton Estate, which borders Bovington Camp, was owned by family cousins, the Frampton family. Lawrence had rented and subsequently purchased Clouds Hill from the Framptons. He had

been a frequent visitor to their home, Okers Wood House, and had for many years corresponded with Louisa Frampton.

On Lawrence's death, his mother wrote to the Framptons; due to time constraints, she asked whether there was space for him in their family plot at Moreton Church. At his subsequent funeral there, attendees included Winston and Clementine Churchill and Lawrence's youngest brother, Arnold (who demonstrated the Lawrencian dry humour in speaking with reporters), and T.E. Lawrence's coffin was transported on the Frampton estate bier.

## **Writings**

Throughout his life, Lawrence was a prolific writer. A large proportion of his output was epistolary; he often sent several letters a day. Several collections of his letters have been published. He corresponded with many notable figures, including George Bernard Shaw, Edward Elgar, Winston Churchill, Robert Graves and E.M. Forster. He met Joseph Conrad and commented perceptively on his works. The many letters that he sent to Shaw's wife, Charlotte, offer a revealing side of his character.<sup>[5]</sup>



In his lifetime, Lawrence published four major texts. Two were translations: Homer's *Odyssey*, and *The Forest Giant* – the latter an otherwise forgotten work of French fiction. He received a flat fee for the second translation, and negotiated a generous fee plus royalties for the first.

### ***Seven Pillars***

Lawrence's major work is *Seven Pillars of Wisdom*, an account of his war experiences. In 1919 he had been elected to a seven-year research fellowship at All Souls College, Oxford, providing him with support while he worked on the book. In addition to being a memoir of his experiences during the war, certain parts also serve as essays on military strategy, Arabian culture and geography, and other topics. Lawrence re-wrote *Seven Pillars of Wisdom* three times; once "blind" after he lost the manuscript while changing trains in Reading.

The accusation that Lawrence repeatedly exaggerated his feats has been a persistent theme among commentators. The list of his alleged "embellishments" in *Seven Pillars* is long, though many such allegations have been disproved with time, most definitively in Jeremy Wilson's

authorised biography.

Lawrence acknowledged having been helped in the editing of the book by George Bernard Shaw. In the preface to *Seven Pillars*, Lawrence offered his "thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Shaw for countless suggestions of great value and diversity: and for all the present semicolons."

The first edition was to be published in 1926 as a high priced private subscription edition. Lawrence was afraid that the public would think that he would make a substantial income from the book, and he stated that it was written as a result of his war service. He vowed not to take any money from it, and indeed he did not, as the sale price was one third of the production costs. This left Lawrence in substantial debt.

### ***Revolt***

*Revolt in the Desert* was an abridged version of *Seven Pillars*, also published in 1926. He undertook a needed but reluctant publicity exercise, which resulted in a best seller. Again, he vowed not to take any fees from the publication, partly to appease the subscribers to *Seven Pillars* who had paid dearly for their editions. By the

fourth reprint in 1927, the debt from *Seven Pillars* was paid off. As Lawrence left for military service in India at the end of 1926, he set up the "Seven Pillars Trust" with his friend DG Hogarth as a trustee, in which he made over the copyright and any surplus income of *Revolt in the Desert*. He later told Hogarth that he had "made the Trust final, to save myself the temptation of reviewing it, if *Revolt* turned out a best seller."

The resultant trust paid off the debt, and Lawrence then invoked a clause in his publishing contract to halt publication of the abridgement in the UK. However, he allowed both American editions and translations which resulted in a substantial flow of income. The trust paid income either into an educational fund for children of RAF officers who lost their lives or were invalidated as a result of service, or more substantially into the RAF Benevolent Fund set up by Air-Marshal Trenchard, founder of the RAF, in 1919.

## **Posthumous**

He also authored *The Mint*, a memoir of his experiences as an enlisted man in the Royal Air Force. Lawrence worked from a notebook that he

kept while enlisted, writing of the daily lives of enlisted men and his desire to be a part of something larger than himself: the Royal Air Force. The book is stylistically very different from *Seven Pillars of Wisdom*. It was published posthumously, edited by his brother, Prof. A.W. Lawrence.

After Lawrence's death, his brother inherited all Lawrence's estate and his copyrights as the sole beneficiary. To pay the inheritance tax, he sold the U.S. copyright of *Seven Pillars of Wisdom* (subscribers' text) outright to Doubleday Doran in 1935. Doubleday still controls publication rights of this version of the text of *Seven Pillars of Wisdom* in the USA. He then in 1936 split the remaining assets of the estate, giving "Clouds Hill" and many copies of less substantial or historical letters to the nation via the National Trust, and then set up two trusts to control interests in Lawrence's residual copyrights. To the original Seven Pillars Trust he assigned the copyright in *Seven Pillars of Wisdom*, as a result of which it was given its first general publication. To the Letters and Symposium Trust, he assigned the copyright in *The Mint* and all Lawrence's letters, which were subsequently edited and published in the book *T. E. Lawrence by his Friends* (edited by A.W. Lawrence, London,

Jonathan Cape, 1937).

A substantial amount of income went directly to the RAF Benevolent Fund or for archaeological, environmental, or academic projects. The two trusts were amalgamated in 1986, and, on the death of Prof. A.W. Lawrence, also acquired all the remaining rights to Lawrence's works that it had not owned, plus rights to all of Prof. Lawrence's works.

## Sexuality

As was common for his class and generation, Lawrence did not discuss his sexual orientation or sexual practices, and his actual orientation and experiences are debated. Writers working to elucidate the history of same-sex erotic relationships identify a strong homoerotic element in Lawrence's life, while scholars, including his official biographer, have been accused of "attempt [ing] to defend Lawrence against 'charges' of homosexuality."<sup>[6]</sup>

There is one clearly homoerotic passage in the Introduction, Chapter 2, of *Seven*

*Pillars of Wisdom:*  
"quivering together  
in the yielding  
sand, with intimate  
hot limbs in  
supreme embrace."  
However, this  
passage merely  
discusses Bedouin  
practices of  
homosexuality, not  
his own  
involvement in  
them.

The book is  
dedicated to "S.A."  
with a poem that  
begins:



Selim Ahmed ("Dahoum"),  
before World War I, at  
Carchemish. Photograph by  
T.E. Lawrence.

"I loved you, so I drew these tides of men  
into my hands  
and wrote my will across the sky in stars  
To gain you Freedom, the seven-pillared  
worthy house,  
that your eyes might be shining for me  
When I came."<sup>[7]</sup>

It is unclear whether "S.A." identifies a man, a woman, a nation, or some combination of the above. Lawrence himself maintained that "S.A." was a composite character. On the subject of the war, Lawrence once said: "I liked a particular Arab, and thought that freedom for the race would be an acceptable present."<sup>[8]</sup>

If "S.A." does refer to a particular person, a likely possibility is Selim Ahmed, nicknamed "Dahoum" ("Dark One"), a 14-year-old Arab with whom Lawrence is known to have been close. The two met while working at a pre-war archaeological dig at Carchemish. Lawrence allowed the boy to move in with him, carved a nude sculpture of him which he placed on the roof of the house in Greco-Roman style (Lawrence being a scholar of classical literature), and brought Ahmed on holiday to England.

The two parted in 1914, never to see each other again, as Dahoum died of typhus in 1918. Boston University Professor Matthew Parfitt (who never met Lawrence) maintains that "in *Seven Pillars*, and more explicitly in his correspondence, Lawrence suggests that his distaste for the entire exploit in its last triumphant days was largely

owing to news of his friend's death."

In *Seven Pillars*, Lawrence claims that, while reconnoitering Deraa in Arab disguise, he was captured, tortured and possibly gang-raped.<sup>[9]</sup> Due to misconceptions about male sexual assault, some critics have used this as evidence to suggest that Lawrence was homosexual. For supporting evidence there are letters and reports that Lawrence bore scars of whippings, but the actual facts of the event are lost. Lawrence's own statements and actions concerning the incident contributed to the confusion. He removed the page from his war diary which would have covered the November 1917 week in question. As a result, the veracity of the Deraa events is a subject of debate.

It is true that Lawrence hired a man to beat him, making it clear he had unconventional tastes, notably masochism.<sup>[10]</sup> Also, years after the Deraa incident, Lawrence embarked on a rigid programme of physical rehabilitation, including diet, exercise, and swimming in the North Sea. During this time he recruited men from the service and told them a story about a fictitious uncle who, because Lawrence had stolen money from him, demanded that he enlist in the service and that he be beaten. Lawrence wrote letters purporting to be



from the uncle ("R." or "The Old Man") instructing the men in how he was to be beaten, yet also asking them to persuade him to stop this. This treatment continued until his death.<sup>[11]</sup> The authenticity of some of these claims and reports is disputed, but others are verified.

Those who attest that T.E. Lawrence was homosexual are primarily biographers and researchers writing after his death. Most of the discussion about Lawrence's sexuality seems to have originated from Richard Aldington's scathingly critical *Lawrence of Arabia: A Biographical Inquiry* (1955). Richard Meinertzhagen wrote in his Middle East Diary that upon meeting Lawrence, he asked himself, "Boy or girl?" – though historians widely consider this to have been added after the fact. The play *Ross* (1960) by Terrence Rattigan, as well as the famous film *Lawrence of Arabia*, helped introduce the idea into popular culture.

In a letter to a homosexual, Lawrence wrote that he did not find homosexuality morally wrong, yet he did find it distasteful.<sup>[12]</sup> In the book *T.E. Lawrence by His Friends*, many of Lawrence's friends are adamant that he was not homosexual but simply had little interest in the topic of sex.

Not one of them suspected him of homosexual inclinations. Like many men of the time, T.E. Lawrence had little pressure to pursue women, and most of his time was devoted to other activities. E.H.R. Altounyan, a close friend of Lawrence, wrote the following in *T.E. Lawrence by His Friends*:

"Women were to him persons, and as such to be appraised on their own merits. Preoccupation with sex is (except in the defective) due either to a sense of personal insufficiency and its resultant groping for fulfilment, or to a real sympathy with its biological purpose. Neither could hold much weight with him. He was justifiably self sufficient, and up to the time of his death no woman had convinced him of the necessity to secure his own succession. He was never married because he never happened to meet the right person; and nothing short of that would do: a bald statement of fact which cannot hope to convince the perverse intricacy of the public mind."

## Vision of Middle East

A map



of the  
Middle  
East  
that



Lawrence's post-World War I vision of the  
Levant.

belonged to Lawrence has been put on exhibit at the Imperial War Museum in London. It was drafted by him and presented to Britain's War Cabinet in November 1918.

The map provides an alternative to present-day borders in the region, based on the sensibilities of the local populations. It includes a separate state for the Armenians and groups the people of present-day Syria, Jordan and parts of Saudi Arabia in another state, based on tribal patterns and

commercial routes.

## Trivia

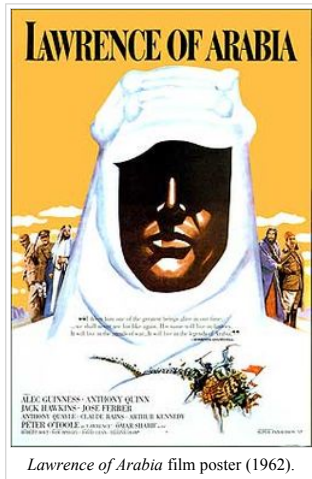
### Military

- According to Lawrence's RAF enlistment medical file of March 12, 1923, he was 5 ft 5.5 in (1.66 m) tall, weighed 130 lb (59 kg), had "scars on his buttocks", "three superficial scars on lower part of his back" and "four superficial scars left side." He was also circumcised.
- One of his favourite weapons was a Colt Peacemaker revolver. As recounted in Thomas's *With Lawrence In Arabia*, Lawrence, while on a pre-war archaeological trip to Mesopotamia, was attacked by an Arab bandit intent on stealing his gun. However, the Arab did not understand the revolver's firing mechanism, and was forced to leave Lawrence unconscious but alive. After this incident, Lawrence's weapon of choice was the Peacemaker, and he almost always carried one for good luck. Lawrence was also known to carry a Broomhandle Mauser, and later, a Colt M1911 semi-automatic.

- His SMLE Mk III rifle, given to him by Emir Feisal, is on display in the Imperial War Museum, London.

## Film

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*Lawrence of Arabia* film poster (1962).

Portrayed twice on film, by Peter O'Toole in *Lawrence of Arabia* and in a made-for-TV movie, *A Dangerous Man: Lawrence After Arabia* (1990), by Ralph Fiennes, both of whom are much taller than the real Lawrence: O'Toole stands 6'3" (1.90 metres) while Fiennes stands 6'1" (1.85 m). Alec Guinness was considered for the title role in the first film, but was passed over as too old, despite the latter having been of an age with Lawrence. He did, however, play Emir Faisal in that film.

- He was portrayed a third time on film in the 1992 TV series *The Young Indiana Jones Chronicles*, by actors Joseph Bennett and Douglas Henshall.

## Theatre

- Lawrence was also the subject of Terrence Rattigan's controversial play *Ross*, which explored Lawrence's alleged homosexuality. *Ross* ran in 1960-61, starring Alec Guinness, an admirer of Lawrence's. The play had originally been written as a screenplay, but the planned film was never made.
- Alan Bennett's *Forty Years On* (1968) includes a satire on Lawrence; known as "Tee Hee Lawrence" because of his high-

pitched, girlish giggle. "Clad in the magnificent white silk robes of an Arab prince ... he hoped to pass unnoticed through London. Alas he was mistaken." The section concludes with the headmaster confusing him with D.H. Lawrence.

- The character of Private Napoleon Meek in George Bernard Shaw's 1931 play *Too True to Be Good* was inspired by Lawrence. Meek is depicted as thoroughly conversant with the language and lifestyle of tribals. He repeatedly enlists with the army, quitting whenever offered a promotion.
- T.E. Lawrence's first year back at Oxford after the Great War to write his *Seven Pillars of Wisdom* was portrayed by Tom Rooney in a play, *The Oxford Roof Climbers Rebellion*, written by Canadian playwright Stephen Massicotte (premiered Toronto 2006). The play explores Lawrence's political, physical and psychological reactions to war, and his friendship with poet Robert Graves.
- Lawrence's final years are portrayed in a one-man show by Raymond Sargent, "The Warrior and the Poet."<sup>[13]</sup>

## Travel

- Jordanian attempts to promote the Hejaz

railway as a tourist attraction with a Lawrence Special running from Aqaba to Wadi Rum were derailed in September 2006 when a freight train ran off the track close to one of Lawrence's detonation points, causing similar damage to the permanent way.

- A road in the Mount Batten area of Plymouth, where Lawrence was stationed, has been named Lawrence Road in his honour.

## **Other**

- Oxford legend holds that, while an undergraduate at Jesus College, Lawrence crept into the deer park of Magdalen at night and stole a deer; by the morning, he had managed to transfer the deer to the front quad of All Souls, the college which is normally off limits for undergraduates.
- At the time Lawrence was going under the name Shaw, and signing himself, for example in the guest book at Philip Sassoon's Port Lympne estate, as "338171 A/C Shaw". Noel Coward in a letter to him asked "May I call you 338?"<sup>[14]</sup>
- An evergreen practical joke of London



newspapers is to place a notice in the Lost and Found column: "FOUND IN PADDINGTON STATION: manuscript of Arabian adventures. Will the author please call &c. &c.".

## See also

- Hashemite
- Kingdom of Jordan
- Kingdom of Iraq
- Assassinations in fiction

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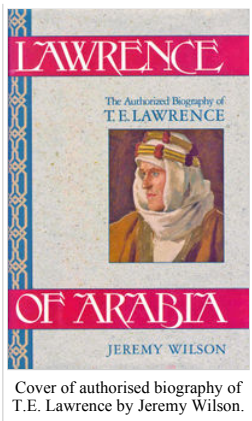
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4. ^ Paul Harvey, *The Rest of the Story*, KGO 810AM, August/September 2006.
5. ^ Author: T. E. Lawrence, Title: Correspondence with Bernard and Charlotte Shaw, 1922-1926, vol. 1, Editor: Jeremy and Nicole Wilson, Publisher: Castle Hill Press, Copyright: 2000, Foreword by Jeremy Wilson
6. ^ [http://www.glbtq.com/literature/lawrence\\_te.html](http://www.glbtq.com/literature/lawrence_te.html)
7. ^ Some editions of *Seven Pillars* give the last line of this stanza as "When we came." The 1922 Oxford text, however, has "When I came." This poem was heavily edited by Robert Graves.
8. ^ GayHeroes.com accessed April 12, 2007.
9. ^ *Seven Pillars of Wisdom* by T.E. Lawrence, Book VI
10. ^ John E. Mack, *A Prince of Our Disorder*
11. ^ Mack, 1976.
12. ^ *The Letters of T.E. Lawrence*.
13. ^ <http://www.ray-sargent.net/w&p.html>
14. ^ London Review of Books, 7 August 2003, page 13

## External links

- [telawrence.net](http://telawrence.net): Lawrence's writings online
- Site dedicated to one of Britain's Greatest Heroes
- Fact file from Lawrence biographer

- The T.E. Lawrence Society
- Lawrence of Arabia's Dorset
- T.E. Lawrence: The Enigmatic Lawrence of Arabia article by O'Brien Browne
- Who was S.A.?, by Yagitani Ryôko
- Lawrence of Arabia: True and false (an Arab view) by Lucy Ladikoff
- Clouds Hill, Wareham, Dorset – The rural retreat of T.E. Lawrence
- T.E. Lawrence and his Cameras from the Museum of the History of Science, Oxford
- Study of Lawrence's attitudes to the Arabs
- T. E. Lawrence At Find A Grave
- Lawrence of Arabia in south Jordan

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