

PiXZ People - Little Books of Great Lives

LAWRENCE OF ARABIA

Rodney Legg

Immortalised in film and his own literary masterpiece, *The Seven Pillars of Wisdom*, Colonel Thomas Edward Lawrence remains the most enigmatic hero of the 20th century. Shunning the Prince of Mecca legend he had created, he constantly reinvented himself, by re-entering the ranks in the RAF, then the Tank Corps, and for a third stint developing high-speed launches.

His cover was soon blown, inevitably, as he continued to attract headlines. His talent for 'backing into the limelight' continued to his death, which has left its own mystery with contradictory inquest evidence of the accident in which he was thrown from his motorcycle.

Rodney Legg relates anecdotes and incidents that portray a colourful life through a kaleidoscope of places in which he lived. From Wales to Oxford and Dorset, from 1923, he was always on the move, both mentally and physically. Interludes range from the New Forest and Epping Forest to Plymouth Sound and Southampton Water.

Illustrations draw from a remarkable contemporary archive as well as photographs of the key places across England forever associated with him. Clouds Hill on heathland at Bovington Camp is the shrine to the public Lawrence but a private Lawrence can be found in a mixture of far-flung locations.

This handy, pocket-sized, hardback biography provides the ideal introduction in words and pictures to Lawrence, his life and the places where his remarkable spirit can be felt even today.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Rodney Legg is a prolific author and historian who has published hundreds of country walks. Nationally he is active in the environmental movement having been chairman of the Open Spaces Society since 1989 and a member of the ruling council of the National Trust from 1990 until 2009.

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LAWRENCE OF ARABIA



Lawrence's gravestone in Moreton Cemetery.



Winston Churchill and wife Clementine walking up the drive to St Nicholas Church, Moreton, for Lawrence's funeral.



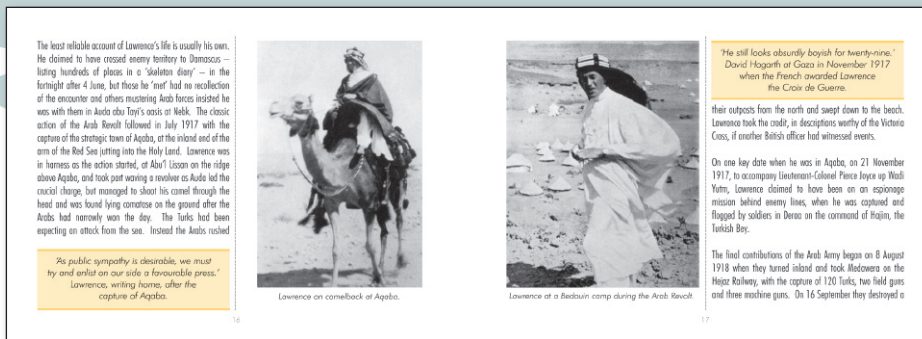
Lawrence at the front of a Rolls-Royce tender, at the head of the Arab Army, entering Damascus on 1 October 1918.



Right: Lawrence on GW 2275, his final motor-cycle, beside the rhododendrons at Clouds Hill.



Clouds Hill cottage from the hillside.



Example of a double-page spread.



Left: Lawrence in the guard-room at Miranshah, beside a rack of rifles, in 1928.