

T.E. Lawrence was an English First World War hero who helped in the Arabs' struggle for independence. He died in 1935 in a motorbike accident.

As a young man, Thomas Edward Lawrence enjoyed exploring castles and following the routes of the crusaders in Palestine. He learnt Arabic and travelled around North Africa.

In 1914 the First World War breaks out. Lawrence goes to Cairo as a British intelligence officer to help Arab troops to free their country from Turkish rule. Lawrence leads dashing camel-back raids to dynamite railway lines. The Turks offer a high price to anyone who can capture „al-Urans, destroyer of engines“. In 1917 Lawrence is



captured and tortured. After the Turks are defeated, he becomes a hero. But he refuses all honours and retires to write *The Seven Pillars of Wisdom*, which describes his experiences in the Arabs' struggle.

Lawrence was bitterly disappointed when Britain and France did not give the Arabs complete independence. Lawrence died in 1935 when he swerved on his motorbike to avoid two boys on a country road.



struggle: fight
independence: freedom
explore: investigate
crusader: pilgrim
intelligence: secret service
rule: government
lead: guide

dashing: bold
raid: attack
capture: catch, arrest
destroy: demolish
torture: hurt
defeat: beat
honour: award

retire: leave
pillar: column
wisdom: knowledge
disappoint: frustrate
swerve: turn aside
avoid: prevent

TRUE or FALSE?

The Turks won World War 1.	<i>false</i>
Great Britain won World War 1	
Lawrence was an Arab.	
Lawrence was a British officer.	
Lawrence hated the Arabs.	
The Arabs didn't like Lawrence.	
Lawrence fought against the Turks.	
Britain was in war against Turkey.	
Lawrence went to Palestine.	

Lawrence rode camels.	
Lawrence rode motorbikes.	
Lawrence wrote a book about he Arabs.	
Lawrence was a crusader.	
Lawrence died in the war.	
Lawrence spoke English and Arabic.	
Lawrence was killed in action.	
Lawrence lost his life in an accident.	
The end of the war gave the Arabs freedom.	