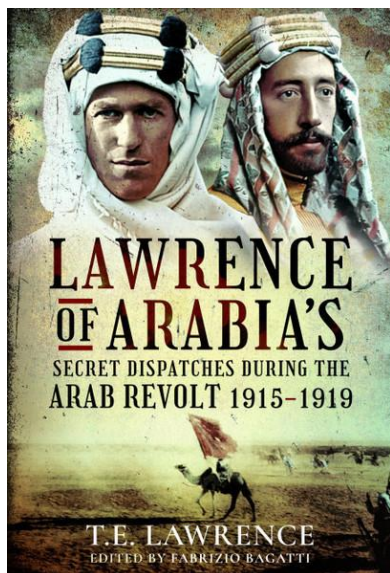


BOOK REVIEW
LAWRENCE OF ARABIA'S SECRET DEPARCHES
During the Arab Revolt 1915-1919
T.E. Lawrence, Editor Fabrizio Bagatti
Pen & Sword Military 2021(hb)
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Fabrizio Bagatti is professor of Literary Translation at the University of International Studies in Rome and he has a long-standing interest in the life of T.E. Lawrence. This work is the result of his recent research into Lawrence's 'Desert Dispatches' and although they have been published before this was in an edited and incomplete form printed for a limited wartime audience in the Arab Bulletin which was published from June 6, 1916 - August 30, 1918 by Britain's Arab Bureau. It was established to provide "a secret magazine of Middle East politics".

In this scholarly volume Lawrence's despatches are published in full for the first time. These wartime despatches give the reader an inside view of Lawrence's dealings with the Arab leaders and how he presented them to his superiors in Cairo. They vividly reveal his impressions of his time in the desert, how the uprising developed and Lawrence's increasing part in it.

The introduction of this work sets the despatches in their wartime context covering the military and political background to the situation in the Middle East at the time and the role of Lawrence as 'intermediary' between the Arabs and the British. In spite of the vast amount of literature in existence about T.E. Lawrence this work is a valuable addition to the canon. Tracing the course of the revolt as he wrote it at the time makes fascinating reading and will be an important volume for the general reader and the scholar providing unexpurgated coverage of the despatches with comprehensive notes, bibliography and index.

Martin Willoughby