

Herbert Garland and Lawrence of Arabia - Screenplay
Competition

Scenes By
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Based on:
'Lawrence of Arabia' by Robert Bolt and Michael Wilson

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PART 1:

[Notes: We begin shortly after the Intermission of the film. Lawrence has returned to the desert, having persuaded General Allenby and the British army to provide more money, weapons and support troops to the Arab revolt after the fall of Aqaba.

Here, we join American journalist Jackson Bentley in the middle of his introductory meeting with Prince Faisal.

In the original time-line of the film we cut from this scene to Lawrence blowing up a train and ambushing the soldiers aboard. Instead we will cut from Bentley's meeting to a training session between Lawrence and Garland which will then lead into that same ambush.]

INT. FAISAL'S ROOM - DAY

FEISAL listens to BENTLEY with increasing impatience. Both are seated.

BENTLEY

Now, I've been sent to find material which will show our people that his war is...

FEISAL

Enjoyable?

BENTLEY

Hardly that, sir. But to show it in its more adventurous aspects.

He closes his notepad.

FEISAL

You are looking for a figure who will draw your country towards war?

BENTLEY

All-right. Yes.

FEISAL

Aurens is your man.

EXT. DESERT DUNES - DAY

CLOSE on a railway sleeper. Hands work away busily, applying explosives and fuses onto the plank.

GARLAND (VO)
 Good. We'll make a demolition
 expert of you yet Major Lawrence.

REVEAL -

LAWRENCE crouched over what is actually a single piece of wood: this is a training exercise. Stood over him is none other than MAJOR HERBERT GARLAND (mid 30's).

He is dressed in the uniform of the British Army, though he has added a Bedouin head-scarf but still has a deep tan across his face. He is sporting a well maintained beard

LAWRENCE
 I do hope so. Can't have you taking
 all the credit now can we?

Both men share a laugh.

LAWRENCE (cont'd)
 There. Done. Now what?

GARLAND
 We find somewhere to hide.

They rush behind a dune where a plunger waits for them.

GARLAND (cont'd)
 Now.

Lawrence presses down the plunger.

EXT. DESERT PLAINS - SAME TIME

From this distance we see an explosion from behind a dune. Two men, riding on mules stop riding and turn to look. One of them is Bentley, the other his Guide.

BENTLEY
 Wow! Would you look at that!

GUIDE
 That will lead us Aurens.

BENTLEY
 Looks like he's having quite the
 party.

EXT. DESERT, NEAR SOUTHERN HEJAZ RAILWAY - DAY

Glass bottles stand to attention, stuck into the sand. Suddenly the bottles shatter under repeated volleys of bullets, though a few are missed and remain intact.

Half a dozen BEDOUIN TRAINEES lay in the prone position, holding rifles with GARLAND supervising. He raises his hand and after a BEAT the shooting ceases.

(NOTE: All Arabic dialogue shall be enclosed in brackets. On screen this text will appear in subtitles.)

GARLAND

[Very good. Accuracy will be key especially when shooting from long range.]

(beat)

[You must try and hit every target though.]

He points to one of the undamaged bottles.

GARLAND

[Because they might be a better shot than you!]

TRAINEES laugh.

NEARBY -

Lawrence rests against his bags. Around him, FARRAJ, SHARIF ALI and MAJID also sit under their own shelters, watching the training with approval.

BENTLEY (OS)

Mister Lawrence?

They turn to see Bentley and his Guide riding toward them.

FARRAJ

Do you know this man Aurens?

LAWRENCE

Not yet.

He indicates for Farraj to help Bentley. He steers Bentley's mule toward Lawrence.

BENTLEY

(to Farraj)

Thank-you.

He steps off. Lawrence stands to greet him.

(CONTINUED)

LAWRENCE
Can I help you?

BENTLEY
The name's Jackson Bentley I'm a
journalist and I'm looking for
Major Lawrence.

Bentley hands Lawrence a letter, then looks up the slope
towards GARLAND.

LAWRENCE
I am Lawrence.

BENTLEY
You're Major Lawrence?

LAWRENCE
I am.

FARRAJ
(leading the mule past them)
Aurens to us.

BENTLEY
I thought perhaps?...

He looks back at Garland.

LAWRENCE
That is Major Garland.

BENTLEY
I assumed because he was training
them that he must be Lawrence?

LAWRENCE
No.

BENTLEY
So he trains the Arabs and you lead
them?

LAWRENCE
Major Garland trains them.

BENTLEY
I was under the impression this was
a one man operation? Who is he?

LAWRENCE
I am sorry to disappoint you but
Major Garland is vital to the
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

LAWRENCE (cont'd)
campaign. He perfected - in fact
invented - the method of blowing up
a moving train. It's something he
has passed on to all of us. What's
more he digs our trenches, teaches
musketry, machine gun work,
signaling. He even invented a
grenade they named after him.

(beat)

The Arabs all like him too.

BENTLEY

And you Major Lawrence?

LAWRENCE

They like me also. I am a good
showman and it amuses them.

BENTLEY

You're a modest man.

LAWRENCE

Once more I think you are going to
be disappointed.

Garland has dismissed the trainees for the afternoon and
joins Bentley and Lawrence return.

LAWRENCE

Ah, Major Herbert Garland may I
introduce Mister Jackson Bentley?

GARLAND

(shaking Bentley's hand)

Pleasure to meet you sir.

BENTLEY

The pleasure is mine.

GARLAND

American?

BENTLEY

Yes.

GARLAND

So you are not a soldier?

LAWRENCE

Mister Bentley is a journalist.

(CONTINUED)

GARLAND

I see. Come to report on our little revolt?

SHARIF ALI

Little?

GARLAND

I thought you would be more offended by me saying "our"!

Ali and the other Arabs burst out laughing.

GARLAND (cont'd)

Make sure to mention how funny I am.

Already scribbling in his notepad, Bentley nods.

MAJID

Garland - why can we not train with machine guns?

GARLAND

We do not have that many. Besides until their aim improves it would be a waste of bullets. After-all:
(quoting Koran)
"Do not squander wastefully, surely the squanderers are the followers of the Shaitan and the Shaitan is ever ungrateful to his Lord."

The Arabs nod. He leans over to Bentley.

GARLAND (cont'd)

And also mention how much I know about their culture.

LAWRENCE

It's time we were off.

BENTLEY

Off?

LAWRENCE

Yes we must rendezvous with Colonel Brighton. And Auda.

BENTLEY

(writing notes)
Auda? Colonel Brighton?

LAWRENCE

I'll explain along the way.

With that everyone rushes to their respective camels. Farraj returns with Bentley's mule.

LAWRENCE

(climbing onto his camel)

You will have to ride with the mule a little further. Brighton has a car though and I'm sure you can ride in that.

BENTLEY

Oh I don't mind so much...

Bentley sees Garland stuff a handful of detonators into his pocket with a string of primers and fuses!

BENTLEY

He's just shoving those fuses in his pocket!

LAWRENCE

No need to worry. He has years of practical knowledge. He knows what he is doing.

BENTLEY

I see.

LAWRENCE

He was the one who taught me how to be familiar with high explosives.

EXT. SAND DUNE, HEJAZ RAILWAY ROUTE - DAY

Lawrence lies hidden behind a large dune with the rest of the Arab army, holding onto the plunger of a larger detonator...

[Notes: The film continues as normal, with Lawrence blowing the railway track. We can imagine Garland riding in Colonel Brighton's armoured car during the attack.]

We rejoin them after the raid, as Auda retrieves a beautiful white stallion from the train and follows the rest of the Arab army who return home for the winter. What follows is an edited scene based on what takes place in the film.]

BRIGHTON stands in the turret of the truck looking at the remnants of the Arab Army. Lawrence sits down in the sand.

(CONTINUED)

BRIGHTON

So, what'll you do now? What can you do?

LAWRENCE

I'll go north. That's what Allenby wants, isn't it?

BRIGHTON

Allenby wanted the Arab army behind Dera'a.

LAWRENCE

Then that's where I'll take it.

Emerging from the back of the track, looking paler and thinner than we last saw him, is GARLAND.

GARLAND

That's where we'll take it.

BRIGHTON

Herbert you're in no condition to keep fighting!

GARLAND

I'm fine.

He coughs uncontrollably. Ali and Majid rush to help him, but he remains on his feet without their help.

GARLAND

I'm fine really. The sooner we can get this war over the sooner I can get home and out of this blasted climate. And it will be over sooner with me helping Major Lawrence.

LAWRENCE

Precisely right Herbert.

With that the Arabs and Lawrence mount up. Farraj helps Garland onto his camel.

LAWRENCE

(to Brighton)

Tell Allenby to hurry up or we'll be in Dera'a before he's in Jerusalem, won't we?

END OF PART 1.

PART 2:

(CONTINUED)

Notes: This takes place shortly after the first ambush. The Arab army has shrunk enormously due to temporary desertion leaving two-dozen Bedouin along with Lawrence and Garland.

They prepare to blow up another train. On the other side of the dune, Garland lies in some discomfort. He instructs Majid on which detonators are most appropriate.

Beside the track, Lawrence and Farraj prepare an explosive whilst ALI keeps a lookout for any Turks. Once more this is an edited scene from the original film to include Garland.

EXT. TURKISH RAILWAY LINE - DAY

BEHIND A SAND DUNE -

Garland rests against the dune. He supervises Majid who is sorting through a box of detonators.

Majid then walks over to Farraj, who takes one of the detonators. Majid almost drops the box but Farraj catches it. Both men know that was a close call!

DOWN ON THE RAILWAY TRACK -

Ali assists Lawrence as he lays down explosives.

LAWRENCE

Farraj?!

Popping out from behind the sand dune, Farraj rushes over.

FARRAJ

Yes! Aurens!

LAWRENCE

(to Ali)

Hide yourself, my friend.

Ali runs toward the dune. Farraj arrives.

LAWRENCE (cont'd)

Detonator.

Searching himself, Farraj cannot find it.

LAWRENCE

Alright, fetch another.

FARRAJ

Pardon, Aurens, I put it in...

(CONTINUED)

LAWRENCE
There's plenty of time; fetch
another!

Farraj rushes back to fetch a second detonator. Suddenly
there is a LOUD BANG!

LAWRENCE
Farraj? Farraj!

BEHIND THE DUNE:

Farraj lies on his back, writhing in agony. The rest of the
group, including Garland, join Lawrence by the boys side.

SHARIF ALI
What happened?

LAWRENCE
Detonator. A detonator.

MAJID
He cannot ride Aurens. Look.

SHARIF ALI
If they take him alive, you know
what they will do to him.

GARLAND
No you cannot!

SHARIF ALI
If we take him with us it will be
more painful for him.

GARLAND
It's my fault I should have been
the one to bring the detonators.

LAWRENCE
Enough!

Lawrence takes out his revolver and aims it at Farraj. The
other's peel away.

FARRAJ
Daud will be angry with you.

LAWRENCE
Salute him for me.

With tears in his eyes, Lawrence pulls the trigger.

INT. SHEPHERD'S COTTAGE - LATER

Note: this is another scene from the original film, re-written to include Garland, who is now very ill.

The last of the Arab North Army - twenty men - huddle in this shepherd's cottage. Ali and Lawrence have been arguing over their next move.

MAJID

Dera'a is garrisoned. Will you take twenty against two thousand?

LAWRENCE

I'll go by myself if I have to.

GARLAND

No you bloody well won't.

He tries to stand but is far too weak.

LAWRENCE

My friend you must rest. I will go alone if need be.

MAJID

Why?

LAWRENCE

Because I told the English Generals the Arab revolt will be in Dera'a when they would be in Jerusalem.

MAJID

Or perhaps you are here for the English generals.

LAWRENCE

Who says this?

GARLAND

Yes let them say it our faces!

ALI

Rumour.

Lawrence spits.

MAJID

That is not an argument.

(CONTINUED)

LAWRENCE

No argument. This afternoon, I will take the Arab revolt into Dera'a while the Arabs argue.

GARLAND

Please let me come with you.

LAWRENCE

With all your coughing and spluttering Herbert you would give us away.

He smiles to lessen the sting for Garland, who understands.

MAJID

Aurens! Can you pass for an Arab in an Arab town?

LAWRENCE

Yes, if one of you would lend me some dirty clothes.

GARLAND immediately takes off his head scarf and offers it to LAWRENCE, who gladly accepts.

END OF PART 2.

PART 3:

Notes: This is my final re-written scene incorporating Garland, who arrives here with Bentley after the infamous massacre scene from the original film.

I/E. ROAD TO THE VILLAGE OF TAFAS - DAY

On the road to the village of Tafas, Bentley and Garland ride in a car together.

BENTLEY

Shouldn't they already be in Damascus?

GARLAND

Might have been some problems. Lot of Turkish troops still in the area.

BENTLEY

Are you coming to Damascus?

(CONTINUED)

GARLAND

For a short while. I'll be handing
in a full report to Allenby and
then I am to head to Medina.

BENTLEY

Medina?

GARLAND

Yes I am to supervise its'
handover. As one does.

BENTLEY

Indeed...

Both men fall silent as the scene of the battle comes into view. The scale is enormous in keeping with a running conflict and the savagery is hard to imagine.

Garland directs the Driver to turn up a hill where Lawrence and Ali sit atop their camels, neither man looking at the other. The car pulls up -

BENTLEY

Major! Major Lawrence!

Bentley steps out of the car, Garland close behind.

BENTLEY (cont'd)

Jesus wept!

GARLAND

My God!

Continuing onwards, Bentley stops dead in his tracks when he sees the full extent of the carnage.

BENTLEY

Jesus wept!

GARLAND

Major Lawrence what happened here?

Lawrence just sits there...

GARLAND (cont'd)

Sharif Ali - how did this happen?
Was no surrender offered?

ALI

Does it surprise you? Surely, you
know the Arabs are a barbarous
people? Barbarous and cruel. Who
but they! Who but they!

(CONTINUED)

BENTLEY

(to Lawrence)

Oh, you rotten man. Here, let me
take your rotten bloody picture for
the rotten bloody newspapers.

He takes the picture. Garland shakes his head and walks
away.

Once the picture has taken, Bentley turns his back on
Lawrence and rushing to the car, drops one of his notepads
without realising.

The notepad lies open: it's all the notes Bentley made about
Garland, slowly being buried by the windblown sands.

END OF PART 3.

THE END.