

A Hobbit, A Wardrobe and A Great War

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Key dates and events in the lives of J.R.R. Tolkien and C.S. Lewis

J.R.R. Tolkien was born January 3, 1892 in South Africa.

- 1896** - His father Arthur dies and then his mother Mabel in 1904. The Tolkien boys John and Hilary were adopted by Father Francis Xavier Morgan in 1904.
- 1910** - The beginning of the T.C.B.S. Tea Club Barrovian Society by four school boys at King Edward's School Birmingham: Geoffrey Bach Smith, Robert Quilter Gibson, Christopher Wiseman, and John Ralph Reuel Tolkien.
- 1916** - Marriage of Tolkien and Edith Bratt. Children: John Francis Reuel, Michael, Christopher, Priscilla
- 1916** - August 4, war is declared on Germany. Tolkien with T.C.B.S friends enlist in defense of England - Tolkien in Lancaster Fusiliers - Hospitalized for Trench Fever in October 1916, then hospitalized in England. Only Tolkien and Christopher Wiseman survive the war.
- 1926** - Tolkien and C.S. Lewis meet in Oxford and become close friends
- 1932** - First draft of The Hobbit is written
- 1955** - Final edition of The Lord of The Rings is published
- 1973** - September 2, The death of John Ralph Reuel Tolkien in Oxford

C.S. Lewis was born on June 19, 1898 in Belfast

- 1916** - Lewis enrolled at Oxford University
- 1917** - November 29, on his 19th birthday, he is commissioned as Second Lieutenant, and arrives at the front lines in battle at the Somme Valley in France.
- 1918** - Lewis is briefly hospitalized for French Fever in a French hospital, then returns to the front lines. April 15 Lewis is badly wounded in battle then in military hospital in London until January of 1919
- 1919** - Returns to Oxford - Friendship begins with J.R.R. Tolkien in 1926
- 1931** - The long walk with Tolkien and Dyson. Lewis proclaims his faith in Jesus Christ
- 1938, 1943, 1945** - Lewis writes three space novels with dark themes.
- 1941** - Screwtape Letters
- 1941 - 1944** - Broadcast talks during the Battle of Britain, later published as Mere Christianity.
- 1950** - Lewis writes the first of seven stories of the marvelous, The Chronicles of Narnia
- 1957** - Lewis and Joy Davidman Gresham are married at her bedside in Oxford Hospital
- 1960** - The death of Joy (Davidman) Lewis
- 1963** - November 22, The death of Clive Staples Lewis in Oxford