

= Bulldog Drummond =

Bulldog Drummond is a British fictional character , created by H. C. McNeile and published under his pen name " Sapper " . After an unsuccessful one @-@ off appearance as a policeman in The Strand Magazine , the character was reworked by McNeile into a gentleman adventurer for his 1920 novel Bulldog Drummond . McNeile went on to write ten Drummond novels , four short stories , four stage plays and a screenplay before his death in 1937 . The stories were continued by his friend Gerard Fairlie between 1938 and 1954 ; further books were published in the 1960s and one in 1983 .

Drummond is a First World War veteran , brutalised by his experiences in the trenches and bored with his post @-@ war lifestyle . He publishes an advertisement looking for adventure , and soon finds himself embroiled in a series of exploits , many of which involve Carl Peterson ? who becomes his nemesis ? and Peterson 's mistress , the femme fatale Irma . After his first adventure Drummond marries his client , Phyllis Benton ; in later episodes she becomes involved in Drummond 's exploits , often as the victim of kidnapping by Drummond 's enemies .

In 1921 an adaptation of the first novel was staged in London , with Gerald du Maurier playing the role of Drummond ; the play was further adapted and resulted in the 1922 silent film Bulldog Drummond , with Carlyle Blackwell in the lead role . Several other Drummond films have followed , either based on McNeile 's stories or with unique storylines .

= = Drummond = =

The Bulldog Drummond stories of H. C. McNeile follow Captain Hugh " Bulldog " Drummond , DSO , MC . Drummond is a member of " the Breed " , a class of Englishman who were patriotic , loyal and " physically and morally intrepid " . Drummond is a wealthy gentleman , formerly an officer in the fictional " Royal Loamshire Regiment " , who , after the First World War , spends his new @-@ found leisure time looking for adventure . McNeile first wrote the Drummond character as a detective for a short story in The Strand Magazine , but the portrayal was not successful and was changed for the novel Bull @-@ dog Drummond , which was a thriller . The character was an amalgam of McNeile 's friend Gerard Fairlie , and his idea of an English gentleman , although writer J.D. Bourn disputes Fairlie 's claim to be a model for the character , noting that " he was still at school when Sapper created his ... hero " . Drummond also had roots in the literary characters Sherlock Holmes , Sexton Blake , Richard Hannay and The Scarlet Pimpernel .

Drummond 's wartime experience had given him a series of abilities akin to that of a hunter : stealth ? " he could move over ground without a single blade of grass rustling " ? and the ability to incapacitate others ? " he could kill a man with his bare hands in a second " . During his time on the Western Front he would take himself on solitary raids through no man 's land . Drummond was also proficient in jujutsu and boxing , was a crack shot , played cricket for the Free Foresters , and was an excellent poker player . In addition to Drummond 's physical attributes is his common sense , which allows him to equal and beat his opponents , even if they have a superior intellect .

Drummond is characterised as large , very strong , physically unattractive and an " apparently brainless hunk of a man " , He is six feet tall , weighs around 14 stone , and has a " cheerful type of ugliness which inspires immediate confidence in its owner " . Throughout his exploits , Drummond is joined by several of his ex @-@ army friends and colleagues , including Algy Longworth (who would appear in many of the films , as Drummond 's sidekick) , MC ; Toby Sinclair , VC ; Peter Darrell and Ted Jerningham . Drummond 's ex @-@ batman from his military days , James Denny , runs Drummond 's flat on Half @-@ Moon Street in Mayfair , London , along with Mrs Denny . (Denny appeared as Drummond 's sidekick in the radio series , a version of the character named Tenny appeared in the films) Drummond is a gentleman with a private income ; he is also be construed as " a brutalized ex @-@ officer whose thirst for excitement is also an attempt to reenact [sic] the war " , although the character was later described by Cecil Day @-@ Lewis as an " unspeakable public school bully " .

The novel Bulldog Drummond begins when Drummond places an advertisement in a newspaper

looking for adventure to lift the ennui of his life in post @-@ war London . The response comes from Phyllis Benton , who is concerned for the health and well @-@ being of her father , over whom Henry Lakington and Carl Peterson have a hold . At the end of the novel Drummond and Phyllis marry , and remain married throughout the course of the McNeile and Fairlie series of books , in contrast to the films , which generally portray Drummond as unmarried . Phyllis becomes integral to the plot of some of the novels : she is kidnapped by Irma Peterson in several stories , including The Black Gang and The Female of the Species .

In the matter of his personal tastes , Drummond is a member of the fictional Junior Sports Club , a gentleman 's club on St. James 's Square , London . His preferred drink is beer although he also enjoys drinking martinis and is knowledgeable about wines . Drummond owns both a Rolls @-@ Royce and a Bentley .

Although Drummond 's actions are intended to maintain the conservative status quo of Britain , academic Hans Bertens considers that instead , he comes across as " a murderous exponent of a fierce competitive individualism " .

= = Carl and Irma Peterson = =

The first four books deal with Drummond against Carl Peterson , who becomes Drummond 's arch @-@ enemy . Peterson is also a master of disguise and uses several aliases . Peterson is killed in the fourth book , The Final Count , although Fairlie brings him back for his final novel , The Return of the Black Gang . Drummond forms a grudging respect for Peterson , and offers an honourable duel to the death at the end of The Third Round , instead of the usual summary justice that normally befalls members of Peterson 's gang . The writer Richard Usborne sees Peterson as " quite a sympathetic character . Almost , in fact , a hero " , and wrote that " authors ... fall in love with their big villains ... Sapper came to love Carl Peterson dearly , and so did Drummond " .

The title of the fifth Bulldog Drummond book , The Female of the Species refers to Rudyard Kipling 's line " the female of the species is more deadly than the male " . Irma is described by Jonathon Green as " the sleeky epitome of a twenties ' vamp ' " , and by Lawrence Treadwell as dark , sexy and from an oriental background , " a true femme fatale " . After Carl Peterson 's death in The Final Count , Irma swears revenge on Drummond and kidnaps his wife ? whom he had met in Bulldog Drummond ? with the intent of killing him in the ensuing chase . Irma Peterson appears in six of McNeile 's books , and in a further five by Fairlie .

= = Reception = =

The Drummond series proved popular with contemporary audiences , with Bulldog Drummond selling 396 @, @ 302 copies between 1920 and 1939 , exceeding the 100 @, @ 000 @-@ copy benchmark for " best @-@ sellers " . At his peak in the 1920s , McNeile was the highest @-@ paid short story writer in the world , and it was estimated that in the last five years of his life he was earning around £ 10 @, @ 000 a year ; the Daily Mirror estimated that during his writing career he had earned £ 85 @, @ 000 .

When reviewing Bulldog Drummond Strikes Back for The New York Times , the critic observed that " if you like a good knock @-@ down @-@ and @-@ drag @-@ out yarn with excitement and violence on nearly every page , you can 't go wrong on Bulldog Drummond " ; for the novel Bulldog Drummond at Bay , the reviewer considered that " as a piece of fictional melodrama , the book is first rate " . In the British market , The Times Literary Supplement also characterised McNeile as a mass @-@ market thriller writer , which contrasted with its consideration of his earlier works .

Throughout the Drummond stories , much of the language used by McNeile relating to ethnic minorities or Jews is considered by the academic Joan DelFattore to be " intensely conservative by modern standards " ; Green observes that while the characters of other contemporary writers , such as Agatha Christie , " exhibit the inevitable xenophobia and anti @-@ semitism of the period , McNeile 's go far beyond the ' polite ' norms " . J.D. Bourn considers his language to be " rather distasteful " , while the academic Michael Denning observed that " Drummond is a bundle of

chauvinisms , hating Jews , Germans , and most other foreigners " . The academic Ion Trewin comments that for the readers of the 1920s and ' 30s , McNeile was seen at the time as " simply an upstanding Tory who spoke for many of his countrymen " .

= = Influences = =

Drummond later became a model for other literary characters created in the 1940s and ' 50s : W. E. Johns used McNeile 's work as a model for his character Biggles , while Ian Fleming stated that James Bond was " Sapper from the waist up and Mickey Spillane below " .

= = Works = =

= = = Novels = = =

All were published through Hodder & Stoughton .

Drummond has also appeared in other works . In 1983 Jack Smithers wrote Combined Forces , and in 1990 Kim Newman ? under the name Jack Smithers ? wrote the short story " Pitbull Brittan " , which features Drummond . Drummond has also appeared in two graphic novels . In 2004 Moonstone Books released a Bulldog Drummond comic book written by William Messner @-@ Loeb and illustrated by Brett Barkley , while in The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen : Black Dossier , written by Alan Moore and illustrated by Kevin O 'Neill , a thinly disguised , elderly version of Drummond , called " Hugo Drummond " , is one of the three Secret Service agents tasked to hunt down the heroes of the piece .

= = = Stage adaptations = = =

McNeile and Gerald du Maurier adapted the first novel , Bulldog Drummond for the stage , where it was shown at Wyndham 's Theatre during the 1921 ? 22 season. du Maurier played the title role in a run of 428 performances . Du Maurier again played the role on 8 November 1932 in a special charity performance at the Royal Adelphi Theatre attended by King George VI . The play also ran in New York during the same season , with A. E. Matthews as Drummond . McNeile also wrote The Way Out , which was staged at the Comedy Theatre , London in January 1930 with Ian Hunter as Drummond . A third Drummond play , Bulldog Drummond Hits Out , was co @-@ written by McNeile and Fairlie . It went on a tour of the UK in 1937 with Henry Edwards as Drummond , and opened on 21 December 1937 at the Savoy Theatre , London , where it had a short run . Fairlie later turned the storyline into the novel Bulldog Drummond on Dartmoor , published in 1938 .

In 1974 the play Bullshot Crummond , by Ron House , was staged with Alan Shearman as Crummond . The play was subsequently made into the 1983 film Bullshot .

= = = Short stories by McNeile = = =

= = = Films = = =

In 1933 Alfred Hitchcock was set to direct a Bulldog Drummond film with a screenplay by Charles Bennett entitled Bulldog Drummond 's Baby . The rights to the character of Drummond were then held by British International Pictures who would not sell the rights to use the character 's for Bennett 's screenplay . Bennett and Hitchcock turned the film into The Man Who Knew Too Much without Drummond .

= = = Radio and television = = =

A Bulldog Drummond radio series ran on the Mutual Broadcasting System from 13 April 1941 to 12 January 1949 . An attempt was made at a revival between 3 January and 28 March 1954 . Drummond was initially portrayed by George Coulouris , before being taken over by Santos Ortega and Ned Wever after 1942 ; Cedric Hardwicke took over in 1954 . A 30 @-@ minute episode of Douglas Fairbanks , Jr . , Presents featured Drummond in " The Ludlow Affair " , first broadcast on UK television on 16 December 1956 . Drummond was played by Robert Beatty ; he was aided by Kelly , played by Michael Ripper . A 1973 BBC documentary Omnibus , " The British Hero " , featured Christopher Cazenove playing Drummond , as well as a number of other such heroic characters , including Richard Hannay , Beau Geste and James Bond .