

### "Dulce et Decorum Est "

Bent double, like old beggars under sacks,  
Knock-kneed, coughing like hags, we cursed through  
sludge,  
Till on the haunting flares we turned our backs  
And towards our distant rest began to trudge.  
Men marched asleep. Many had lost their boots  
But limped on, blood-shod. All went lame; all blind;  
Drunk with fatigue; deaf even to the hoots  
Of tired, outstripped Five-Nines that dropped behind.

Gas! GAS! Quick, boys! – An ecstasy of fumbling,  
Fitting the clumsy helmets just in time;  
But someone still was yelling out and stumbling  
And flound'ring like a man in fire or lime . . .  
Dim, through the misty panes and thick green light,  
As under a green sea, I saw him drowning.

In all my dreams, before my helpless sight,  
He plunges at me, guttering, choking, drowning.

If in some smothering dreams you too could pace  
Behind the wagon that we flung him in,  
And watch the white eyes writhing in his face,  
His hanging face, like a devil's sick of sin;  
If you could hear, at every jolt, the blood  
Come gargling from the froth-corrupted lungs,  
Obscene as cancer, bitter as the cud  
Of vile, incurable sores on innocent tongues, --  
My friend, you would not tell with such high zest  
To children ardent for some desperate glory,  
The old lie: "Dulce et decorum est  
Pro patria mori."

~ Wilfred Owen (1893-1918)

\*It is sweet and fitting to die for one's country

## America Joins the Fight

- Allies are in trouble: sick, tired, lost many soldiers
- Russia withdraws from the war when Lenin comes to power--signs Treaty of Brest-Litovsk with Germany
- Germans push towards Paris
- American troops arrive in France with Gen John J. Pershing

- Harlem Hell Fighters: African American unit awarded for their bravery
- Battle of Belleau Wood: three weeks of fighting, Americans win
- Germans push for Paris again, beaten back when they reach American lines
- Battle of the Argonne Forest: Allied offensive; 47 days, high American casualties, Germans retreat

- November 11, 1918: Armistice Day
- President Wilson decides terms:
  - Germany must accept his plan for peace
  - The kaiser must abdicate (give up power)