

Student Essay on Suicide in the Trenches and Biography

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Essay

"Suicide in the trenches" was written in 1917 and is a very emotional poem. It is about the sorrow, hatred and all the horrors that the war may have placed upon an innocent young boy, forcing him to kill himself. No-one should die a death like that, as the "Suicide in the trenches" is expressing the sadness of this tragedy.

Most of Siegfried Sassoon's poetry was directed against war. He used to use a lot of his WW1 experience to influence his poetry, and was epigrammatic and satirical in nature. This poem is depressing, and it seems to have a scary atmosphere towards it, because the young soldier sadly put a bullet through his head.

No similes, metaphors or personification were found in this poem, though some forms of alliteration were found.

Siegfried Sassoon was born on 8th September 1886 at Weirleigh, near Paddock Wood in Kent. After attending Marlborough College he went to Clare College, but left without a degree. For the next few years, Sassoon lived as a country gentleman. He spent his time hunting, playing sports and writing poetry, which was published privately.

Sassoon enlisted as a cavalry trooper in Sussex WW1. Later, he became an officer, and was posted to the Western Front in France. In June 1916 Siegfried was awarded the Military Cross for bringing a wounded man back to the British lines while being attacked. Siegfried was later sent to hospital during the war for shell shock. He officially retired in 1919 from injuries. During his time in hospital he met fellow English writer, Wilfred Owen.

Some of Sassoon's other poetry he has written are 'The death bed', 'they', 'counter attack', 'does it matter', and 'The daffodil murder'.

Siegfried Sassoon later died in 1967.