

1915 REALITY HITS HOME

1915

I've watched the Seasons passing slow, so slow,
In the fields between La Bassée and Bethune;
Primroses and the first warm day of Spring,
Red poppy floods of June,
August, and yellowing Autumn, so
To Winter nights knee-deep in mud or snow,
And you've been everything.

Dear, you've been everything that I most lack
In these soul-deadening trenches—pictures, books,
Music, the quiet of an English wood,
Beautiful comrade-looks,
The narrow, bouldered mountain-track,
The broad, full-bosomed ocean, green and black,
And Peace, and all that's good.

Robert Graves' poem speaks of the yearning of a soldier for home, after the first full year of war. The initial excitement for the great adventure has worn off and the reality of war has kicked in.

The same was true on the Home Front – the casualty figures were mounting and life was different and becoming more difficult.

For this year's exhibition the research group at the Museum of North Craven Life have been working once more as part of the "Craven and the First World War" project. We are liaising again with Settle Primary School, Settle College and the Brayshaw Library at Giggleswick School.

We have tried to tell some of the stories of 1915 and found heroes along the way.

1915 REALITY HITS HOME



REALITY HITS HOME

1915

I've watched the Seasons passing slow, so slow,
In the fields between La Bassée and Bethune;
Primroses and the first warm day of Spring,
Red poppy floods of June,
August, and yellowing Autumn, so
To Winter nights knee-deep in mud or snow,
And you've been everything.

Dear, you've been everything that I most lack
In these soul-deadening trenches—pictures, books,
Music, the quiet of an English wood,
Beautiful comrade-looks,
The narrow, bouldered mountain-track,
The broad, full-bosomed ocean, green and black,
And Peace, and all that's good.

Robert Graves' poem speaks of the yearning of a soldier for home, after the first full year of war. The initial excitement for the great adventure has worn off and the reality of war has kicked in.

The same was true on the Home Front – the casualty figures were mounting and life was different and becoming more difficult.

For this year's exhibition the research group at the Museum of North Craven Life have been working once more as part of the "Craven and the First World War" project. We are liaising again with Settle Primary School, Settle College and the Brayshaw Library at Giggleswick School

We have tried to tell some of the stories of 1915 and found heroes along the way.

Reality Hits Home

(Text transcribed from pdf panels; transcript may contain errors: for true version, refer to print image: version 25/06/2015 00:30)
(© Museum of North Craven Life, Exhibition 2015, <http://www.ncbpt.org.uk/folly/>)