

# Siegfried Sassoon

Siegfried's Journey by S. Sassoon 1916-1920  
Faber & Faber Limited M cmxlv

1945?

Ref. Complete Memoirs of George Sherston  
Convalescing in 1916

Somerville  
Oxford

Outline  
Mottel First heard <sup>more</sup> of her during convalescence at Somerville  
she had written to him while on the Somme

First  
visit to Garsington Manor "Perfect place" paint, powder, purple hair, clothes

Garsington  
Manor | Few homes where felt unembarrassed and at ease -  
45. Read up to

wounded again a back home before being due  
to be sent back again - <sup>but offered a teaching job in UK</sup> for publication

" I believe that this war, upon which I  
entered as a war of defence and liberation,  
has now become a war of aggression +  
conquest" (Rumours Germany had been  
ready to negotiate peace in 1916 + this had  
been turned down)

Stance taken to save lives by Sassoon, of the  
men still fighting the war. Ultimately believed  
in light of subsequent events that a peace in 1917  
would not have been insubstantial

Ultimately sent to hospital "suffering from shell shock!!"

Went out to the front 3 times

1911 1884  
11 5<sup>6</sup>/<sub>25</sub> 1855

16  
11

# Poem They

Bishop of London - extract from a speech

"Bishop had expressed <sup>his</sup> belief that those who were serving at the front would return with their souls purged & purified by what they experienced, or words to that effect - Inappropriate bunkum [could apply to some - expressed by men who had never experienced the front. Wrote 'They' soon after hearing Robbie talk of the newspaper article "most publicly effective poem I had yet written."

\* CAPTAIN SIEGRIED SASSOON MC, DIARY  
RECOLLECTIONS 1915-18 Faber & Faber  
1983 P. 283 11. Nov. 1918

## LIFE HISTORY

- Born 8<sup>th</sup> Sept - Kent 1886.
- Studied at Clare College Cambridge left without <sup>14</sup>/<sub>15</sub> a degree
- Country gentleman, small volumes of poetry
- May 1915 Commissioned into the Royal Welsh Fusiliers - went to France (aged 28) Enlisted First Day of War
- Impressed many with his bravery (aged 28) known as 'Mad Jack'. Decorated twice (MC)
- Brother Hamo killed 1915 at Gallipoli
- Summer of 1916 returned home to recover from fever ①
- Went back to the front but wounded in April 1917. ②
- Met with several pacifists who reinforced his growing resentment of the war. 1917 June wrote a letter to the Times to say war was deliberately & unnecessarily prolonged by the Gov.
- outrage & requests he be court martialed
- Robert Graves convinced authorities he was suffering

# Play About Sassoon & Wilfred Owen

"Not about Heroes"

Stephen MacDonald (1987)

I was staying near Oxford p.79 of Journey Chaps 10, 6 & 7.

Dress (Brown Norfolk jacket, Tweed trousers beige shirt green tie brown shoes - (which required Royal Welch Fusiliers))

## SASSOON CONTINUED

from shell shock.

- Sent to hospital in Edinburgh for treatment
- Then returned to the front (3)
- Wounded again in 1918.
- Sent home did not return War Ended
- Married, had a son
- 1957 Became Catholic
- Died 1. Sept 1967 (aged 80)

Started War as an innocent & the bloody  
futility of it struck even deeper because of the  
reality.

Poems wrote of the horror & brutality of trench warfare

- Etel - brother
- Harry Lockett, survivor - Read They
- Mrs Gale Son
- Mrs Morns Widow

Relate to all of you. My poetry tells of all you  
Closing here. grieves because I too knew & suffered the same  
J.P. Kavanaugh It is said of Siegfried's Poets my poetry  
"To-day they ring as true as they ever did, it  
is difficult and that is why I am here in  
your play."

↑ Endsda Play. The life in these villages  
was hard but the consequences of the war even harder.