Wilfried Owen

Problematic: Why is he a famous soldier?

Introduction

Today we will talk about Wilfried Owen, who is a soldier of the First World War, and we will try to explain why he is famous. First, we will first focus on his life and then, on his works.

I-His life

Wilfried Edward Salter Owen was an English poet and soldier, one of the main poets of WWI.

He was born on 18th March 1893 in Oswestry, Shropshire. After school, he became a teaching assistant and in 1913 he went to France for two years to work as a language tutor. He began writing poetry when he was a teenager. In 1915, he returned to England to enlist in the army and was commissioned into the Manchester Regiment. After spending the rest of the year training in England, he left for the western front early in January 1917. After experiencing heavy fighting, he was diagnosed with shell shock. He was evacuated to England and arrived at Craiglockhart War Hospital near Edinburgh in June. There he met the poet Siegfried Sassoon, who already had a reputation as a poet and shared Owen's views. Sassoon agreed to look over Owen's poems, gave him encouragement and introduced him to literary figures such as Robert Graves.

On 4th November 1918, he was killed in the Sambre canal at Ors. The news of his death reached his parents on 11th November, Armistice Day.

To finish, he was deeply attached to his mother to whom most of his 664 letters were addressed. (She saved each one.)

II- His works

Only five poems were published in his lifetime—three in the Nation and two that appeared anonymously in the Hydra, a journal he edited in 1917 when he was a patient at Craiglockhart War Hospital in Edinburgh. Shortly after his death, seven of his poems appeared in the 1919 volume of [Edith Sitwell](http://www.poetryfoundation.org/bio/edith-sitwell)'s annual anthology, Wheels, a volume dedicated to his memory, and in 1919 and 1920 seven other poems appeared in periodicals. Almost all of Owen’s poems, therefore, appeared posthumously: Poems (1920), edited by [Siegfried Sassoon](http://www.poetryfoundation.org/bio/siegfried-sassoon). It contains some of the most poignant English poetry of World War One, including 'Dulce et Decorum Est' and 'Anthem for Doomed Youth'.

Conclusion:

Through his poems, Wilfred Owen was able to describe in an artistic way the horrors of war and his experience. What makes him a famous soldier of this terrible war.

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