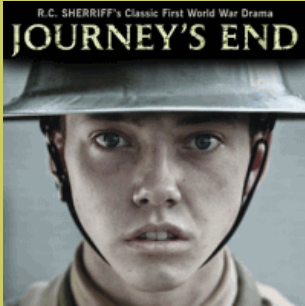


# Journey's End

## Theatre Review by Sarah Haigh (S4)



On Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> September, 21 S4 and S5 students (accompanied by Mrs. McHarrie, English Department and Mr Lane , Social Subjects) went to Theatre Royal, Glasgow to see the R.C. Sherriff's play, 'Journey's End'. The play centres around four days leading up to a major battle in WW1, concentrating on the interaction amongst officers in a dug-out. The play is currently on National Tour. The students, most of whom had previously visited World War 1 Battlefields in Belgium, agreed it gave them insight to the challenges facing officers, and found the play at times to be humorous but mainly very moving. They felt the set of the dugout was realistic and effective.

The experience is summed up in this review written by **Sarah Haigh** , S4 on her journey home from the theatre.

[Journey's End on Wikipedia](#)

[Journey's End on Amazon](#)

**J**ourney's End by R.C. Sherriff is a hard-hitting play about men: young, old, English, Scottish living away from home during World War 1. It concentrates on officers in a dug-out. These men (some only boys), were spending six days at a time in trenches, on duty, leading a battalion. They were plotting, drinking, and surviving. This play told you about their living standards among rats, beds with no mattress, what they ate. Journey's End shows how a new recruit can be so excited and think they are ready but when they are told to raid enemy's trenches and watch fellow soldiers, their newfound friends die. That is when you see that an eighteen year old boy finally realises it's not a game.

The main officer in Journey's End started off not needing whiskey or cigarettes: he wanted to stay fit for his loved ones back home but after a few months "if I didn't I was going to go mad" were his words. He needed these things so that he no longer had to feel the pain. He could just be numb. "Whisky helps me have the nerve to walk out there and face the bombs and explosions".



You only have a few men in those trenches. They support and encourage each other. When one man fakes an illness because he cannot bear it any longer, they have a heart to heart, telling each other it is not just them that feel it, but standing up for your country is a privilege: "Die a hero rather than a betrayer of your county".

Men were told if they left they would be shot for deserting their post. Journey's End told the story that these men went through. When they catch a German they treat the boy like scum on their shoes. That boy cannot help being who he is. He probably never even wanted to join the army but was made to by the leader of his country. Journey's End really showed the anger and fears both countries felt.

Journey's End is a moving, well investigated piece of true-to-life drama that really shows you what happened in the War. It shows us how lucky we are not to be living in that time.

It's a must see play .