

Overall, Dulce et Decorum Est's attitude towards patriotism is very violent and direct, although it isn't clearly said until the very end of the poem, when the Latin sentence is called a lie.

The Send-Off - Page 236 - 1918

Anti-patriotism in The Send-Off is not that obvious, and this is because the war is seen from an external point of view.

First of all, as they leave to the train that will take them to the front, the soldiers "sang their way," which suggests their patriotism as most often soldiers leaving to the front sang to the glory and victory of their country. This also shows that they are happy and cheerful towards their departure.

Right after, in line 3, it is mentioned in an alliteration that the soldiers' faces are "grimly gay." To me, it is patriotism that keeps them in a somewhat happy mood. The Winter of The World classifies the poem in 1918, which says that it was published around then. This means that at this point soldiers leaving to war were aware of the horrors of war since it was towards the end of it. Therefore, the reason young men would enlist is so that one day they could return as heroes. The war is an opportunity for them to serve for their country and be recognized for it later on. Also, if the soldiers were happy, what made them less happy is seeing how they were treated towards their departure barely anyone to cheer for them.

The sentence (on line 11, 5th stanza) "So secretly, like wrongs hushed-up, they went" proves the pessimism in this event. The soldiers are indeed leaving to the front willingly, but they are fully aware of their possible fate and so is everyone around them, so the event of them leaving is something kept "secret," and many people avoid it. In other words they lack support from others through patriotic songs and

Lastly, the authors asks us, in the second to last stanza (lines 16 to 18),
"Shall they return to beatings of great bells
In wild train-loads?
A few, a few, too few for drums and yells."

Through a rhetorical question, we are told the fate of the soldiers. It tells us that too few soldiers will return for drums and yells, meaning patriotic songs and cheers. This basically says that not enough soldiers will return for patriotism and happiness to take over the horrible nature of war. There is emphasis on the "few" through repetition, which shows how impactful it is how little of them will come back. It also suggests time passing and a new soldier or groups of soldiers dying every time. The effect of time passing is that as time goes by, patriotism in war fades away.