

“The war did give particular poets and artists a voice... those who survived found their best work associated with the experience that most were trying to forget”[10]

When looking at the last few lines of ‘Dulce et Decorum Est’ we get a sense that we as readers are directly addressed by Owen as he states *‘My friend, you would not tell with such zest.../The old Lie: Dulce et decorum est Pro patria mori.’* This is a strong anti-war statement made by Owen as he fights against the Latin statement and the idea that with war comes honour, manhood and glory. The heroic adventures were never as ‘heroic’ as the soldiers expected and what was meant to turn boys into men resulted in their ultimate death. These ironies of war can be found not only in Owen’s ‘Dulce et Decorum Est’ but also in Barker’s **Regeneration** where *“-the real life equivalent of all the adventure stories they’d devoured as boys- consisted of crouching in a dugout, waiting to be killed.”*(Chapter9)

In **The Red Badge of Courage**, Fleming enlists with ideas of becoming a man and distinguishing himself through battle. However, Civil War soldiers were initially inexperienced and even when they were not fighting the ‘enemy’, they were battling illnesses, lack of food and extreme weather conditions, not to mention the amount of death they would have had to witness in a short period of time, in **The Red Badge of Courage** *“the men dropped here and there like bundles”*(Chapter5), violent images such as these often contributed to mental illnesses such as Post Traumatic Stress Disorder.

Men who suffered from mental illnesses as a result of war were seen by many people at the time as weak, dependent and passive as

“This parade of emotionally incapacitated men was in itself a shocking contrast to the heroic visions and mascos preceded it”. – Elaine Showalter

Word Count – 366
Cumulative – 2,288/3,300

Similarly to Showalter, Greg Harris argued that the act of breaking down

‘breaks unwritten codes dictating appropriate male behaviour’ which

[11] SHOWALTER, Elaine. *The Female Malady: Women, Madness and English Culture, 1830-1980*. Virago (7 May 1987)