National Literacy Trust

Changing life stories

THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

- Frank Hurley

ALL WHO SERVED, SACRIFICED, AND CHANGED OUR WORLD

Thank you

1918 - 2018

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NURSE

Nurse...
Please bring me paper.
I have an urge to write
To document these visions
I saw within the night.
Of iron horses bringing
Fresh young meat for sacrifice
These outside bets for gambling men
With heavy loaded dice
Of darkened skies
As black as death
The thunder crashing round
A river made of boyhood tears
The devastating sound
Of dragons in the cloak of night
No hiding or retreat
No chance to end the nightmares
No sour turned to sweet
Just endless, endless cycles,
A replay of the past
A film rewound
The plot the same
A new and fresher cast
To show the tragic action
To play the end of days
The morning sun extinguished
In a life-depleting haze
Please nurse,
Please bring me paper
These visions will not leave
It must be told of what I saw
The world, it must believe
For living with this horror
Is impossible you see
And though sharing cannot change it
At least my mind is free
Of the dreams that turn to nightmares
Every night upon this bed
This hold upon my soul
The silent ring within my head.

- Paul Jenkins

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