

By the end of studying Journey's End - **Act 3, Scene 1** I need to know:

Plot: Osborne and Raleigh are selected to carry out the surprise daylight raid, where they are to capture the first German they see. If they're successful, he'll recommend them for the M.C. (Military Cross). On his way out, he reminds them to not carry any papers or personal effects. Osborne asks Stanhope to take his wedding ring and watch to send to his wife should anything happen. They manage to capture a German soldier, who is then questioned by the colonel and in his pocket, they find a pocketbook and his playbook which notes the name of the regiment he came into the line last night; the brigadier will be pleased. Stanhope tells the colonel that only four men and Raleigh returned. Stanhope says Osborne died by hand-grenade while he was waiting for Raleigh; the six men likely died by machine-gun bullets. Raleigh returns with bleeding hands. The Colonel commends him for a job well done but Raleigh is too shocked to respond. The colonel gets him to sit on the edge of Osborne's bed. He leaves. Stanhope stares at Osborne's watch and ring on the table. He leaves but stops on the steps and asks in a dead voice if Raleigh has to sit on Osborne's bed. The curtain falls.

Key Ideas: The colonel selfishly sends Raleigh, Osborne and the soldiers to the daylight raid, knowing that their will be in danger. He convinces Raleigh he will be awarded for his bravery and will be given an MC award. Stanhope feel Raleigh is responsible for the death of Osborne as he died whilst waiting for him.

Reading:

Read to the punctuation

Read stage directions

| | |
|--------------------------|---|
| <p>Vocabulary</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'Brigadier' - a rank of officer in the British army, above colonel and below major general. • 'Boche' - German soldiers • 'Righto' - informal British exclamation to express agreement or assent • 'Gingerly' - cautiously • 'Headquarters' - the premises occupied by a military commander and the commander's staff. • 'Shell' - an explosive artillery projectile or bomb. • 'Dug out' - a trench that is dug and roofed over as a shelter for troops. • 'M.C' - The military cross was awarded to soldiers to honour their bravery • 'Tunic' - a close-fitting short coat as part of a uniform, especially a police or military uniform • 'Rum' - an alcoholic drink • 'Parapet' - a protective wall or earth defence along the top of a trench or other place of concealment for troops. |
| <p>Context</p> | <p>Set during world war one, many British troops witnessed the death of their friends on a daily basis. Most of the three million British troops soon knew they faced almost certain death on the battlefield. Day after day they would witness the annihilation of their friends, never knowing if or when they would be next. This links to the death of Osborne as Stanhope loses his only companion 'the one man I could talk to, the one man I could trust'. Stanhope knew that it was inevitable that he would lose his companion and was able to deal with it in a more mature manner. This contrasts to Raleigh who is inexperienced with death and the harsh realities of war.</p> |
| <p>Themes</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Realities of war - The lack of activity unsettles the soldiers. This connotes how the expectations of war was filled with action. Raleigh finds himself psychologically unprepared for the quiet of the battlefield. Then, suddenly, he has to face intensely violent moments, and once that ends, he has to settle into waiting again. • Comradeship - Osborne remains loyal to Stanhope, despite his flaws. When Hardy is gossiping about Stanhope, Osborne states "I love that fellow. I'd go to hell with him." While he recognises Stanhope's flaws, Osborne understands that dealing with the horrors of war have made him the way he is. Because of this, he refuses to criticise Stanhope. So, when Osborne dies he loses his only companion. Osborne also offers comradeship to Raleigh in this scene: Osborne has taken on a certain fatherly role in his connection with Raleigh, who clearly looks up to him and sees him as wise, as evidenced by the fact that he keeps asking him questions about what the raid will be like. But the best way to pass the time, they find, is to bond over shared experiences, once again suggesting that friendship and camaraderie can help people get through difficult psychological circumstances. • Fear - In this act Osborne and Raleigh, acknowledge their own fear and unfortunate circumstances, but still bravely carry out their soldierly duties. Stanhope, on the other hand, tries to deny his own fear by drinking heavily. The night Osborne dies in action, Stanhope parties the night away, eating special foods and encouraging his men to join him in drinking champagne and whiskey - he does this to "To forget, you little fool—to forget!" |

| | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| <p>Deeper understanding</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Criticism of senior officials - When sending Osborne and Raleigh out for the surprise daylight raid; the Colonel doesn't have much at stake. He doesn't have personal relationships with the men who are venturing into danger, so he only stands to benefit from the mission, since he'll be able to report any success to his superiors. When the men return, the Colonel's first thought after the raid is about whether or not it was successful. Rather than checking on the men who actually carried out the mission. He immediately goes to the prisoner and begins the process of interrogating him. His interrogation of the young soldier is also designed to draw derision from the audience; he speaks in 'somewhat broken English' and confuses the word 'gerburtsort' which confuses the German soldier. It highlights his incompetence, as well as lack of care. However, the roles and expectations within the hierarchy of the army mean that the Colonel will not be criticised for these failures. Stanhope, on the other hand, is clearly worried for his friends, so he retreats to check on them. In this way, Sherriff reveals each character's priorities, portraying the Colonel as an uncaring man obsessed with carrying out his duties. There is a contrast in how the Colonel speaks to both Raleigh and Osborne before the raid. His description of the raid to Raleigh seems deliberately simple: 'grab the first Boche to see, bundle him over... grab two if you can' because he is aware of Raleigh's naivety. To Osborne, by contrast, the Colonel merely asserts that he knows he'll 'put up a good show'. • Futility of war and wasted youth-Osborne's unfinished pipe is symbolic for the futile extinguishing of life- he remarks how it is a 'pity to leave it when it still has a nice glow'; it's a shame to leave a pipe when there is still life in it- symbolic of how Osborne (as well as the other men who die on the raid) lose their lives prematurely. This futility is also reinforced through the pointlessness of the raid, despite the Colonel's false statement that 'it could mean the winning of the whole war'. We already know that there will be no reinforcements given to support the big attack, so where the Germans bombard heaviest will have no impact on the outcome of the big attack (where the expectation is that most, if not all, the men will die). The soldier captured also highlights the futility of war- he is 'sobbing bitterly' when captured- a far cry from the depiction of German brutes in the propaganda. In his pockets he has 'a pen knife, bit of cedar pencil, a stick of chocolate and a piece of string', the random oddities (plus chocolate) being more reflective of what would be found in a young boy's pocket than a bloodthirsty soldier. As a piece of dark comedy, and again to further mock him, the Colonel removes the pen knife- as it that is truly a dangerous weapon. • 'it was murder'- In Act Two Scene Two Trotter, after finding out about the raid, recounts a raid that took place further down the line the other day. After the tochemmas blew a hole in the Boche wire, the Germans tied red rags around the hole [to intimidate and show they knew they were coming]; Trotter then incredulously tells Osborne how they were still forced to go and how it was 'murder'. That same sentiment occurs in the raid. The Colonel asks Stanhope if the rags have 'upset the men at all', meaning the Germans know they are coming and the fact only one hole was blown means they know where. Worse still, the smoke grenades designed to create a smoke screen tip off the Germans of when they will attack: in the stage directions we hear the 'crunch of smoke bombs followed immediately by the sound of machine gun fire'- the second the Germans see the smoke they start firing at the hole- yet Stanhope's men are still sent. It appears Trotter's sentiments were right. • Stoicism and bravery- Osborne's bravery and stoicism shines through in this scene. His chief concern is the safety of Raleigh, not himself. He makes sure Raleigh's safety is off and also subtly directs Raleigh on how to hold his revolver. Not only this, but the details of the raid subtly reveal Osborne's decision to sacrifice himself to save Raleigh. Raleigh has been directed into the German trenches to capture an enemy soldier and then find his way out. Osborne elects himself to lie above the parapet and blow his whistle so that Raleigh can find his way out of the trench. However, Osborne is an experienced soldier, knows that blowing his whistle will also signify to the Germans his location- he willingly and uncomplainingly lays down his life so that Raleigh can get back safely. The conversation between Stanhope and Osborne further establishes this stoicism- neither are willing to officially recognise their potential impending deaths: Stanhope asserts 'you're coming back old man' and Osborne gives Stanhope his ring, a letter and a watch to pass home if he dies [though, tragically, due to the big attack the following morning, these items are unlikely to have made it home]. |
| <p>Quotes</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stanhope is waiting anxiously for the approaching raid: 'STANHOPE is alone, wandering to and fro across the dug-out.' Through the stage directions Sherriff demonstrates Stanhope's concern for the imminent raid. • "I'm—leaving it here. I don't want the risk of losing it." - Osborne has a realistic perception of war and prepares for the worst. This contrasts to Raleigh's expectation of war. • "I'm glad it's you and I—together, Raleigh," Osborne tries to reassure Raleigh and offers him moral support. • With a "look of astonishment," Stanhope says in a "dead" voice, "How awfully nice—if the brigadier's pleased." • "Must you sit on Osborne's bed?" - Stanhope blames Raleigh for the death of Osborne and feels a sense of resentment towards him. |

Links across the text:

In Act 3, scene 1 when Stanhope looks at his watch, Sherriff shows the audience how he wants the time to pass quickly: 'He looks anxiously at his watch.' This is common throughout Journey's End, such as the end of Act 1, when the audience sees Osborne wind up his pocket watch: 'he takes out from his tunic pocket a large, old-fashioned watch, and quietly winds it up.' It reminds the audience that time is constantly passing by, and the time for the German attack is approaching.

Act One: Raleigh no longer has the 'very new uniform of a second lieutenant', symbolic of how Raleigh's mental state has been impacted by the raid.

Act Two Scene Two: Despite the Colonel's statement that a 'surprise daylight raid would be best' Stanhope has been able to push the raid back to 'before dusk'; he is still following instructions but has bought his men more time (and the sinking light would aid the men in not being spotted).

Terminology

- Motif - whisky. Throughout the play, alcohol is used as a motif to Stanhope uses this to calm his nerves and face the war. He has become dependent on alcohol, this is evident in this scene as he reaches for the bottle as soon as Osborne dies.
- Motif - Talk of Civilian Life. Just before the raid; Osborne tries to distract himself and Raleigh from thoughts of war by discussing what they did in their lives before the war. This shows how the soldiers long for the comforts of life outside the war. This contrasts to Raleigh, who is young and naïve and wants to discuss war; since he has not yet experienced the true realities of war nor has he developed a coping mechanism to deal with war.
- Foreshadowing - As Osborne leaves behind a letter to his wife, his wedding ring and his copy of *Alice in Wonderland*, this foretells the reader that this will be the fateful end of Osborne.
- Symbolism - *Alice in wonderland*. We know he is terrified at the thought of being part of the raid. We see him reading from *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* - he comforts himself with this childhood book and uses it as a distraction from the horrors of the war.
- Juxtaposing - The ordinary talk between Raleigh and Osborn 'I do for breakfast. [Pause.] Do these smoke bombs make much row when they burst?' juxtaposes mundane topics against the violence and dangers of war. This perhaps shows how Osborn has become so used to dangers; it has now become a part of his ordinary life.
- Irony - It is ironic that Osborne dies during the raid. The audience may have expected Raleigh who is inexperienced of war carrying out his for official duty of the raid may have died. However, it turns out that Osborne—the experienced and level-headed officer—is the one who dies. In this example of situational irony, the audience's expectations are undermined.
- Symbolism - M.C award. Prior to the raid, Raleigh seems over joyed with the idea of receiving a Military Cross award symbolising his bravery. However, upon his return, after the death of Osborne the M.C award seems insignificant and almost sickens him.
- Symbolism - Time. In Act 3, scene 1 when Stanhope looks at his watch, Sherriff shows the audience how he wants the time to pass quickly: 'He looks anxiously at his watch.' Osborne also counts down to 8 minutes before they must go out for the raid. It reminds the audience that time is constantly passing by, and the time for the German attack is approaching.
- Symbolism - Silence. Silence as Osborn lays his ring on the table. 'There is silence in the trenches above the deserted dug-out' as Osborne and Raleigh go up and out for the raid. 'There is a silence now in the trenches outside' at the end of the scene after the death of Osborn. As well as dialogue and sound effects, Sherriff also uses the lack of these for impact. The stage directions during this scene creates a tense atmosphere as they - refer repeatedly to "silence". It is also used to allow the audience to take in and reflect on the tragedy of the situation.