

PRODUCTION TEAM

JOURNEY'S END
Salon Varietés Theatre
October / November 2005

Stage Manager
Set Construction

Lighting and Sound design
Lighting Engineer
Sound Engineer
Wardrobe
Poster & Programme

Nick Andrews
John Pyne
Reg Harding
Tom Andrews
Dave Mills
Dave Carney
The Cast
John Gale

FOR SALVA

Stage Manager
Lighting Engineer
Sound Engineer
Property Master
Publicity Co-ordinator
Front of House
Box Office

John Pyne
Dave Mills
Dave Carney
Gina Foster
Lizz Freeman
Norma Wilson
Brian Hindley

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

Ubiquitous Touring Theatre Company is delighted to return to the Salon Varietés in Fuengirola for the third time. Journey's End is a truly great play, beautifully written by RC Sheriff. It has endured, it enjoys a successful West End revival in London at the moment.

As we have rehearsed it and toured it in England we all came to realise how balanced it is; how the characters are given room to breathe and develop and how Sheriff avoids stereotyping the characters. Life is never that simple - so why should men at war be? The reason for this classic status is, I believe, his respect for the men under extreme pressure as human beings first and soldiers second. This gives us to believe in the characters - if we were there we would surely talk about our lives back home, our gardens, our loved ones. Sheriff served at the front; in the original production a young unknown actor called Laurence Olivier had to use Sheriff's old uniform as there was no money for costumes. The play is not an anti-war polemic, it is primarily about fear and duty; flight or fight. The men stick it, "because it is the only decent thing a man can do".

We remain in awe of the men who actually went through this - why them and not us? An accident of timing I know but working on Journey's End with this cast, which has been a real privilege for me, makes me wonder what meaning that has for us now. There may not be trenches in Flanders any more but there are still young men huddled together somewhere wondering whether the next shell or bullet will be the end of them.

Will one of them be saying "they are really quite decent I have heard, outside of the newspapers."

Thank you for coming along tonight and I hope you enjoy our production.

Nick Andrews - Director

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CAST & SYNOPSIS

Directed and produced by Nick Andrews for Ubiquitous Touring Theatre Co.

The play is set in an officers' dugout in St Quentin. The date is March 18th 1918 and the action takes place over three days. The German spring offensive is under way and their army has significant forward momentum; a fact known to the British troops of the time....

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

Act I	Scene 1	Monday evening
Act II	Scene 1	Tuesday morning
	Scene 2	Tuesday afternoon

Interval - approximately 15 – 20 minutes

Act III	Scene 1	Wednesday afternoon
	Scene 2	Wednesday night
	Scene 3	Thursday, towards dawn

Music

Opening music.....Barber: Adagio for Strings
End of Act I Scene 1.....Beethoven: Adagio from "Emperor" Concerto
End of Act II Scene 2.....Barber: Adagio for Strings
Opening of Act III Scene 1.....Barber: Adagio for Strings
Before the Raid.....Mahler: Symphony No. 1: First movement
End of Act III Scene 2.....Mahler: Symphony No. 1: Third movement
Closing music.....Elgar: Enigma Variations: "Nimrod"
.....and Chris Rea: "Curse of the Traveller"

CAST LIST / THE WAR

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Captain Stanhope.....Tim Proctor
Lt Osborne.....Richard Higham
Lt Trotter.....David Bright
Lt Hibbert.....Randal Stokes
Lt Hardy.....Randal Stokes
Colonel.....Richard Worland
Cpl Mason.....Phil Madelin
Sgt Major.....Steve Lambell
Lt Raleigh.....Robert Wratten



THE WAR IN THE TRENCHES

The Western Front

The play takes place during World War 1. It is set in an officers' dugout in the trenches on the Western Front. This was the battle line between the Allies and Germans that lay across Northern France, Belgium and down to the Swiss Border. For much of the war this front remained fairly static with neither side giving nor taking much territory; indeed advances were measured in just a few miles gained over half a year or more.

The Trenches

The Trenches of the Western Front stretched in a continuous line from the English Channel to the Swiss frontier. These were not two distinct parallel lines on a map but a rabbit warren of fire, communication and supply trenches. Getting lost in the trenches was a real possibility. Any advances in territory for both sides were minor. The technique of advancing over a trench wall and running directly into your enemy's line of fire across the barbed wire, decaying bodies and mud of 'no-man's land' was costly to human life. Casualties were high. At the end of the four year conflict 908,371 British men had been killed and 2 million injured whilst 1,773,700 Germans were killed and over 4 million injured.



St Quentin

The play opens just before the advance at St Quentin. St Quentin lies 45 miles west of Amiens and 90 miles north of Paris. By 1918 German forces out-numbered the Allies on the Western Front and in the spring of that year Germany staged three offensives. The advance at St. Quentin,

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THE AUTHOR & THE WAR

a city in the Somme River Valley, in March 1918 pushed British troops into a 30 mile retreat. Over the next four months the Germans progressed east towards Paris shelling the city with their enormous guns known as Big Berthas. These had a firing range of 75 miles. With American help the Allies managed to contain the German advance. The turning point was the Second Battle of the Marne fought from July 15th to August 6th, 1918. By early September 1918, the Allies had regained the territory they had lost that spring and by the end of the month Germany realised it could no longer overcome the strength of the combined Allied forces. The Germans surrendered in November 1918.

Equipment

British soldiers on the Western Front would carry in total 30 kilos of equipment. This would include: a steel helmet, a rifle, two grenades, 220 rounds of ammunition, wire cutters, field dressing, entrenching tools, great-coat, two sandbags, rolled ground sheet, water bottle, haversack, mess tin, towel, shaving kit, extra socks, message book and rations.

Alcohol in the trenches

Rum was the alcohol that was given to soldiers. Each division (20,000) had 300 gallons which was usually distributed after an offensive and in very cold weather.

R.C. SHERRIFF

R. C. Sherriff was born in 1896 and educated at Kingston Grammar School and New College, Oxford. He entered his father's insurance business, but shortly after, on the outbreak of the First World War, he joined the army, and served as a captain in the East Surrey Regiment. He rejoined the business in 1918 and spent ten years as a claims adjuster. It was an interest in amateur theatricals, which led him to try his hand at writing. After rejection by many theatre managements, *Journey's End* was given a single Sunday evening performance by the Incorporated Stage Society in December 1928. Laurence Olivier played Stanhope on that occasion. In 1929, Shaw was instrumental in having *Journey's End* produced at the Savoy Theatre. The play's enormous success, in both Europe and America, enabled Sherriff to become a full-time writer.

Among his other plays are *Badger's Green*, (1930); *Windfall* (1933); *St Helena* (1935), a play about Napoleon, written in collaboration with Jeanne de Casalis; *Miss Mabel* (1948); *Home at Seven* (1950); *The White Carnation* (1953); and *The Long Sunset* (1955), a vivid picture of the last day of Roman civilisation in Britain. He wrote screen plays for many films including *The Invisible Man* (1933), *Goodbye Mr Chips* (1933), *The Four Feathers* (1937) *Lady Hamilton* (1941), *Odd Man Out* (1945), *Quartet* (1948), *No Highway* (1950) and *The Dam Busters* (1955). He also published an autobiography, *No Leading Lady* (1968). R. C. Sherriff died in November 1975.