

Death Valley

(Some Nazi or other has said that the Fuehrer had restored to German manhood the 'right and joy of dying in battle'.)

Sitting dead in "Death Valley"
below the Ruweisat Ridge
a boy with his forelock down about his cheek
and his face slate-grey;

I thought of the right and the joy
that he got from his Fuehrer,
of falling in the field of slaughter
to rise no more;

Of the pomp and the fame
that he had, not alone,
though he was the most piteous to see
in a valley gone to seed

with flies about grey corpses
on a dun sand
dirty yellow and full of the rubbish
and fragments of battle.

Was the boy of the band
who abused the Jews
and Communists, or of the greater
band of those

led, from the beginning of generations,
unwillingly to the trial
and mad delirium of every war
for the sake of rulers?

Whatever his desire or mishap,
his innocence or malignity,
he showed no pleasure in his death
below the Ruweisat Ridge.

G l a c a ' B h a i s

(Thubhairt Nasach air choireigin gun tug am Furair air ais do fhir na Gearmailte 'a' choir agus an sonas bas fhaotainn anns an araich'.)

'Na shuidhe marbh an "Glaic a'Bhais"
fo Dhruim Ruidhiseit,
gill'og 's a logan sios m'a ghruaidh
's a thuar grisionn.

Smaoinich mi air a' choir 's an agh
a fhuair e bho Fhurair,
bhith tuiteam arm an raon an air
gun éirigh tuilleadh;

air a' ghreadhnachas 's air a'chliu
nach d'fhuair e 'na aonar,
ged b' esan bu bhronaiche snuadh
ann an glaic air laomadh

le cuileagan mu chuirp ghlas'
air gainmhich lachduinn
's i salach-bhuidhe 's Ian de raip
's de spruidhlich catha.

An robh an gille air an dream
a mhab na h-Iudhaich
's na Comunnaich, no air an dream
bu mhotha, dhiubh-san

a threorakheadh bho thoiseach al
gun deoin gu buaireadh
agus bruaillean cuthaich gach blair
air sgath uachdaran?

Ge b'e a dheoin-san no a chas,
a neoichiontas no mhiorun,
cha do nochd e toileachadh 'na bhas
fo Dhruim Ruidhiseit.