

Vera (Jack) Holme Script

Background https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vera_Holme

Vera grew up in Southport but quickly joined theatrical circuits in Liverpool then in London (she was close friends with Edith Craig, for example). She joined the WSPU “suffragettes” around 1909, becoming chauffeur to Emmeline Pankhurst. She met her on-and-off partner Eve here and would follow her into her charitable ventures during WW1. She spent most of the war as an ambulance driver in Serbia, and seems to have kept up group morale by organising plays, playing violin and writing poems. She went by “Jack” to her friends and dressed in masculine attire.

Poem to Eve: *a poem Vera wrote to Eve in the early days of their relationship*

In memory of the morn we rode together- round the hill “Arthur’s Seat”

When we were both so happy drinking in the full joys of nature

Which can seem more beautiful than ever when your twin soul is at your side!

Eve Haverfield to thee these lines are written!

Early the morn, list! The song bird sings sweet

Varied the pleasures I meet on my ride

Every gift nature has falls at my feet

...

Even the fields left behind us look grey

Leader, well named, you have carried your friend

Dear~

Vera’s Satire: *held captive by the Germans, Austrians and Bulgarians in Serbia, Vera wrote comic poetry to make light of their experiences.*

Extract of “A Satire”, written during the German occupation of Krusevac.

When the Germans bombarded the town
We thought their shells would have blown it down!

And then with explosions the roof blew in two
But plenty of windows that you could fit through
And so could the wind for you felt it at night
And wondered if anything ever came right!

With Germans Bulgarians Austrians too
We hope that man will be quick and fit through-
Because you'll have gathered out here it is fine
In fact now the foe's here we're all doing time!

Lantern Lecture Opener from 1916 : *Vera gave lectures with projected images to raise money for Serbian charities, while Eve was still stationed abroad.*

In this great war the Serbs have again lost their Country, defending now the East against the West; the Freedom of the Balkans against German invasion. The celebration on the 28th June – the Anniversary of the Battle of Kossovo, is perhaps the best opportunity to spread knowledge about a nation which has so materially helped the cause of the Allies in this War, and which deserves to be better known in this Country!

Extra: Extracts from Vera's Diaries in the months following Eve's death. *Eve died in Serbia, where she established an orphanage. Vera stayed on to look after the children, before returning to Britain.*

She clutched me and said 'Is there anything wrong with me? I have tried so hard and this is the way they treat me.' I feel as if I can't breathe myself and if my heart would break.

We knew she was going to die and said we would look after the children; and asked if she understood and she said, perfectly.

I cannot believe that I shall not see her again in this life. It seems like an awful dream. Everything reminds me of her, and I don't know how I can stick Bajina Bachta. It is so awful without Eve.