

Patrick Shaw-Stewart's untitled poem, written while Shaw-Stewart was on a 3-day leave from the brutal Battle of Gallipoli near the site of historical Troy, alludes to the scene of "Achilles at the Trench" in *Iliad* Book 18. You may also notice an allusion to Aeschylus' *Agamemnon*.

Who did not wish to die
I ask, and cannot answer,
Of otherwise wish I.

Fair broke the day this morning
Against the Dardanelles;
The breeze blew soft, the morn's cheeks
Were cold as cold sea-shells

But other shells are waiting
Across the Aegean sea,
Shrapnel and high explosive,
Shells and hells for me.

O hell of ships and cities,
Hell of men like me,
Fatal second Helen,
Why must I follow thee?

Achilles came to Troyland
And I to Chersonese :
He turned from wrath to battle,
And I from three days' peace.

Was it so hard, Achilles,
So very hard to die?
Thou knewest and I know not-
So much the happier I.

I will go back this morning
From Imbros over the sea;
Stand in the trench, Achilles,
Flame-capped, and shout for me.

(1915)