

## How did Dylan Thomas help Britain's wartime propaganda?

### Video transcript: A poet at war

*Ifor ap Glyn:*

A hundred years after his birth, you'd think that we know Dylan Thomas pretty well by now; but somehow, his genius resists being pushed into pigeonholes.

He was a brilliant poet, gifted writer of short stories and successful radio broadcaster.

He was a raconteur, bohemian, womaniser, and drinker of legendary excess.

But what did he do during the war? He spent most of it scripting propaganda films for the Ministry of Information!

*Clip from The Battle for Freedom (1942):*

"The new nations of the Commonwealth, side by side at last with Russia, China and the USA, making the new nations of the world, united in a war to the death against the living death of slavery under fascism."

*Ifor ap Glyn:*

So how did a poet who once said that 'poetry and politics should not mix' end up more or less working for the government? And how was the work of Dylan 'the poet' influenced by his work as Dylan 'the propagandist'?

*Clip from The Battle for Freedom (1942):*

"Britain's RAF still hammers at the industrial areas of German occupied Europe."

*Archive film footage courtesy of Imperial War Museum*