

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

### Video transcript: The effect of propaganda on the poetry

*Ifor ap Glyn:*

In some of the films that he scripted, Dylan Thomas was able to use his considerable poetic talents to great effect.

*Clip from Wales: Green Mountain, Black Mountain (1943)*

Remember the procession of the old-young men  
From dole queue to corner and back again,  
From the pinched, packed streets to the peak of slag  
In the bite of the winter with a shovel and bag,  
With a drooping fag and turned up collar,  
Stamping for the cold at the ill-lit corner  
Dragging through the squalor with their hearts like lead  
Staring at the hunger and the shut pit-head  
Nothing in their pockets, nothing home to eat.  
Lagging from the slag heap to the pinched, packed street.  
Remember the procession of the old-young men.  
It shall never happen again.”

*Ifor ap Glyn:*

According to one critic, ‘The film should please the Welsh and interest the English and the Scots.’

However, it didn't please the censors, with its pointed references to unemployment; and at one point there was talk of banning it even – until it was eventually cleared for exhibition by the Ministry of Information, here in London.

*Archive film footage courtesy of Imperial War Museum*