

Landscape With Figure



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Daily Telegraph, 8 June 2004

Sunday's feature on Radio 3, *Landscape With Figure*, had the real thing, an unsentimental and challenging portrait by Sean Street of Keith Douglas, the Second World War poet. Douglas was a tank commander in the Sherwood Rangers. He died in a shellburst three days after D-Day, on a reconnaissance mission (described here by one of his surviving fellow officers as "totally irresponsible", seeing as Douglas was second-in-command). The padre who buried him spoke, as did poets, his biographer and people who knew him. In parallel, we received a first-rate analysis of his verse, how it changed after desert combat, loosening in structure, tightening its impact.

