Reflections on Trench Warfare 4/5/13

I have a constant fear for my life, though it increases during the night when most of the fighting occurs. The trenches are cramped. This not only breeds disease and rats, but also friendships. Great bonds have been formed, and some have then been stripped away. If we can make it through this together… We spend most of our time ducked beneath the side of the trench, avoiding the machine gun fire.

Tolkien may be referring to his experiences of hunger and feelings of starvation in the trenches. He also may be referring to the many people that he saw die during his time in the trenches. Frodo (sort of) following the light may be referring to Tolkien or other soldiers feeling as though death is better than life. The silence of the marshes may refer to the silence that was experienced between fights in the trenches.

starvation = hunger for food, joy, happiness, spirituality

“And, though you died back in 1916, to that loyal heart are you forever 19?”