

## WORLD WAR ONE CEREMONY

Six Year 6 children from Wallace Fields Junior School joined other local school children at a small commemoration in Epsom Market Place on 7<sup>th</sup> November 2018 to mark the death of 32-year-old Trooper Frederick Watkins who was killed in action on 7 November 1918 at Avenses Le-Sec, the last of the 455 borough residents who were killed during WW1. They all wrote a blog about their visit.



On Wednesday the 7<sup>th</sup> November 2018, a group of year sixes, (Emily W, Charlie M, Tom K, Elena E, Sophie B and myself) attended a ceremony that was held in Epsom to commemorate the last soldier to fall in the Great War from Epsom or Ewell. This was Trooper Frederick Watkins, although the service was also to remember the many other soldiers who sacrificed themselves for our country. Many artefacts were on display, such as: 3 helmets, one German, one French and one British, several swagger sticks, a shell case, some debris and 2 old lanterns. Many prayers were said, not to mention St Clement's reading a poem. This was written by a women who lost her husband during the Great War. A wreath was laid on Fennies Nursery's behalf, a school that educated many soldiers who went out to war. Also, the mayor Neil Dallen was there to pay his respects to the brave soldiers who lost their life in the first world war. When we asked David (a historian at Bourne Hall) how many family members were in the war he said, "In the war, I had 2 Grandads, 1 Great Grandad and 2 Great Uncles." Finally, we held a 2 minute silence to conclude the visit.

It was a great trip to understand the war and the efforts of soldiers who fought for our country.

**By Charlie C**



**On Wednesday the 7th of November 6 year sixes went to a remembrance service at Epsom square and it was a melancholy time to remember and many schools came to respect Trooper Frederick Watkins. One school recited a extremely emotional poem about a woman who had a husband in the war who died and it was called perhaps that was all about if he had not died they could be much happier. A nursery school called Fennies, laid a wreath and it was explained that was where the school was that had pupils who went to war.**

**After many prayers and some very sad speeches we went to talk to Tim Richard of the East regiment and asked him the what the war meant to him and he replied with a tear in his eye, “Sad times that we are remembering and it affected many families.”**

**There were also many artefacts about the war and one of them was a bomb belt that was made to keep a bomb flying in a straight direction, it was also made of copper. Another artefact was a British helmet, a German helmet and a French helmet and they had bullet holes in and out and the British helmet was all smashed up.**

**By Charlie M**



**On 7th November 2018, 6 chosen year 6 children attended a commemorative service in front of Epsom Clock Tower to remember the last person from Epsom and Ewell to perish in the war, Frederick Watkins. With even Mayor Neil Dallen speaking, the event included a recital of the poem *Perhaps*, a poem written by a woman who lost her husband during WWI, by St. Clement's and a wreath laid on behalf of Fennies Day Nursery, which many future soldiers attended during their younger years. Also to speak were Reverend Rosemary Donovan of Christ Church and Major Tim Richardson, who led a short silence in honour of Epsom and Ewell's fallen soldiers. Later, Major Richardson talked about his relatives who were involved in the First World War. He had 2 great uncles and 2 great grandfathers who became soldiers of the war. One of his uncles survived the war, while one great grandfather was a spy and the other was discharged due to severe illness. Sergeant Major Cooper also spoke about his uniform, "The uniform I am wearing belonged to my great uncle, who fought in WWI."**

**On Sunday Evening at 6:00, a beacon is being lit to commemorate those who fought and fell for our country.**

**By Elena E**

On the 7th of November, 6 Year sixes, including myself, visited Epsom town square, singing merry songs on the way, to show our respect to those who bravely sacrificed their lives for their country in WW1. In particular, we remembered Trooper Fredrick Watkins, who was the last man from Epsom and Ewell to pass away due to the war.

The remembrance service began with St. Clement's performing a poem . It was very impressive! It was written by a woman who unfortunately lost her husband in the war. The second act was a wreath being laid on behalf of Fennie's nursery, who made it themselves. This was the nursery many soldiers fighting in the war attended when they were younger all those years ago.

After Mayor Neil Dallen had given a speech and we held a silence, the service ended. After this, Wallace Fields had a chance to meet Major Tim Richardson who answered our many questions about the war and had 2 great uncles and 2 great grandads in the war. (one of which was a spy serving the English). We finally looked at the ornaments on the table. One of which was a swagger stick. Major Tim explained that these were carried by all of the soldiers and if they weren't carrying one, they wouldn't be able to leave the barracks! Let's hope they remembered them them! Another object on the table was a helmet. Actually, 3 helmets: one German, one British and one French. It was very clear that the British design...wasn't the best! It was completely squashed and covered with holes! Overall, the visit was great! If you would like to visit a service for yourself, one is being held at 6 pm, Bourne hall park.

**By Emily W**



On the seventh of November, a group of year sixes attended a remembrance service for all the soldiers for WW1, specifically for the last man to be killed in the great war (Frederick Watkins) who was from Epsom. We marched all the way there, saying “left, right, left, right!”

Also, on the way to the service, we sang war songs that the soldiers would have sung on the way to the front line.

The mayor, Neil Dallen, was at the commemoration, wearing his formal ‘robes’. During the ceremony we held a 2 minute silence to remember the people who died in the war. I listened to the noises of Epsom and thought how the soldiers that passed away would never hear these sounds again. After the memorial service, we looked at the war artefacts on the table and talked to the men who had dressed up as soldiers. We asked one of them (Tim Richards) what WW1 meant to him and he answered: “It was a sad time but it’s good that we remember it!”

Please pay your respects for WW1!

By Sophie B



**On the 7th of November, 6 year sixes visited a WWI remembrance service at Epsom market place. It was mainly about Trooper Frederick Watkins, who was the last soldier to lose his life in the war. I was quite amazed at the items on display. There were three helmets and a few swagger sticks (a stick that soldiers carried when they were in public). A woman from Fennies Nursery placed a wreath down by the table. The majority of people who fought in the war from Epsom went to that school.**

**Historian, David, said he had a great-granddad, two granddads and a great uncle who fought in the great war. What I found quite interesting was a lucky charm some soldiers had called a “thumbs up”. There was a minute’s silence and the Mayor and the Reverend made a speech.**

**Overall, I found all of it very interesting and I learnt a lot.**

**Tom K**

