

Ypres Trip 2014 by Maddison Clare

Today we went to Ypres, Belgium. We had to leave school at the early hour of 5am to reach the Euro tunnel train to France. After half an hour we were in France, from there we drove to Belgium.

When we arrived in Belgium our first stop was a First World War cemetery where 12,000 gravestones faced us, all painted white and in beautiful condition. At the back of the cemetery was a huge wall upon which all the names of the missing soldiers were engraved. It had inscribed on it the names of all those who were killed but never



The next cemetery we visited was a German one. The difference between the two was amazing. The British and Belgium cemetery was beautifully kept in a lovely condition and each soldier had a headstone. In the German cemetery there were no headstones. Instead there were plaques laid in the ground, and they were all black. One plaque had the names of 13 soldiers listed on it. Not one soldier had a grave to himself. The big difference between the two cemeteries may suggest the Belgium people had a different attitude toward the graves of German soldiers.



Next we went to Ypres town centre. This was really pretty place, although the best feature was the really good chocolate shop.

In the town centre we visited a museum, which was interesting because it had on display all of the soldiers' uniforms, as well as the weapons that they would have carried. It was great to see what they had to wear while they were in the trenches. When we had finished in the museum, we had some spare time to spend in the town centre before moving on.



After Ypres we went to a little museum that showed us the weapons that the soldiers used, nearby was a place where we could buy bullets and grenades. In the museum there were manikins dressed up as soldiers to show us what they would have looked like when dressed for war.

Once we had finished we headed to Hill 62.

When we arrived at Hill 62, we had to change into our wellies because we were to be going into the trenches. The trenches were interesting to walk through because it showed us properly how the soldiers had to live when they were on the western front. It was a great experience because now I understand how bad it was for the soldiers who had to live in them every day: the conditions were horrible to live in.

