



2014 marks the Centenary of World War One and I was delighted to finally visit the fields and see the graves of those who had sacrificed their lives for our country. We had learned about World War One in our History lessons. We had been shown the gruesome consequences of trench foot; we had read primary sources about men who had come to fatal realisation that the Great War would never be over in four months. We had watched re-enactments of the horrific and bloody Battle of The Somme go disastrously wrong.

However, all of this did not fully prepare us for the perfectly set graves of thousands of unknown soldiers, which simply said, 'known to God'. The silence in the air echoed the priceless sacrifice of men as young as 18 dying for our nation. It was unnerving to think that so many young men had willingly joined to fight in a war that would cost them lives.



It gave us all time to think about the men; brothers, fathers and sons who left all that they, into the dark and deadly unknown world of war.

As a young person it can be difficult to imagine events that happened hundred years ago. However, we got to see the Canadian armed forces and their loved ones in Belgium remembering their dead and it suddenly became real.

Speaking to other members of the public, who were searching the monuments discovering, their own family's surname from places all over the country, made it clear that these were not just names, but people that lives and loved ones. I loved the



fact that although we were looking at British soldiers, I spotted other nationalities like Indian soldiers that risked their lives for our country.

I would recommend every child and adult to do this trip at least once in your lifetime and if you have done so, do it again! Visiting these places is one of the most effective ways to remember that the History we read about, get taught about, is actually real.

I believe that we would be doing our generation and nation a great disservice by not discovering the great works and sacrifice of those before has made and or currently making to make sure that we can have best chance of a peaceful and safe life.

