



What would they think?

By Emily Dutson from Perranporth Community Primary School, Cornwall

I have visited museums; been into a mock trench,
I have tasted the ration packs, and smelt the foul stench,
Of a war that killed more men than my mind can behold.
Of a people so unbelievably strong and so bold.

I have read of the politics – “Ferdinand” rings a bell,
The manoeuvres and battles, all the stories to tell.
Letters home to loved ones never again seen.
The songs sung to keep the spirits up and men keen.
I have heard of the men who saw such horrific sights,
That would chase them through their dreams in the night.

And yet the museum experience of taste, smell, sound and sight,
Cannot bring to me the terrible horror and fright,
Of the 8.5 million who died in the fields,
In the hope a fairer place the world would yield.
But I watch the news sitting next to my mum,
And see the count of people injured, displaced from their homes.
There are millions today affected by wars,
That, people believe, are for a fair and just cause.

We remember the soldiers who died through those years,
They gave up their lives so we could live without fear.
I ask “What would they think of our world today?”
My mum shakes her head, with a look of dismay,
“Oh Emily,” she says “Our hope is with you,
your friends and their brother and their sisters too,
To think of the lessons that millions would give,
To live the life they died for, that they hoped we might live.”