

Worksheet 8 – Lest we forget.

Fovant Military Camp, its purpose fulfilled, was closed by the end of 1920. All signs of its existence were cleared away and the land returned to its former agricultural purpose. Up on the hill however, the badges remain. They are not only a constant reminder of the thousands of soldiers who passed through here on their way to war, but are a memorial to those men who lost their lives on the battlefield. *Pause for thought when you are passing.*



It's difficult to read the text on this sensitive illustration by David Selwood, hence the accompanying translation.



Fovant churchyard. Dedication of the war memorial 1925.

FOVANT BADGES

**There is a green hill down our way
Whose shoulders heave with pride
For lives of young men, fit and strong
And loved ones waiting, oh so long:
It's sward now sings the saddest song
Of days when valour died.**

**Upon this green hill hewn in chalk
Lie Courage, Grit and Grime
With memories of squalid trenches,
Smell of gas: That dreadful stench
Is likely German – or the French,
Or was it just the time?**

**This sleeve of green with badges bold
Forms perfect crease against the sky.
A smarter tunic you'll not find.
"The orders clear – it's sealed and signed"
We're made to think, we left behind
And wonder "Why, oh Why?"**

**Some miles away, beyond the line,
In no-man's land, the three-o-three
Now fire its rounds of different bore;
(The issue rifle is no more);
No salvo; but the traffic's roar
Reminds us that we're free.**

**There is a green hill down our way,
A signal sleeve on verdant ground.
It bears their badges – sewn by hand,
Modest, simple, – nothing grand.
Their mem'ry lives in every land
Where battlefields are found.**

Nigel Broderick-Barker.

Total casualties suffered during World War I
(total of ALL nations – figures are rounded up)

- Wounded 8.5 million
- Missing 21 million
- Killed 7.7. Million

Statistics taken from the History Learning Site

Cemeteries *proliferate wherever there have been battlefields. In towns and villages throughout the world *commemorative memorials list the names of their men who did not return from war. Each man is more than a name carved in stone, but this is all that is left of some grieving family's loved son, brother, father or husband. What an appalling waste.

So many men of all nations lost. To what purpose? Perhaps we should have a memorial to remind us that in war nobody wins. On the contrary everyone loses in some way or other.