



Year 6 Trip to The Imperial War Museum

Thursday 5th March 2009

On the 5th March, Year 6 all met at Merstham train station and Mr Vincent gave out clip boards. On them were sheets on the 1940s House and another worksheet on the whole museum. With us came Mrs Parsons, Mrs Gibson and Mrs Bushell. When everyone had arrived we went out onto the platform and started to get excited. Before long our train came in and we jumped on the train - literally because the gap was so big! We got off at Clapham Junction and caught another train to Waterloo. When we arrived we walked to the museum which was a very long walk!

When we had walked for about an hour people started asking "Is it lunch yet?" but the answer was "No!" The first thing we saw the World war One exhibit. We saw the uniforms and guns and also went down into a trench that really stank!! On the wall of the exhibit we saw lots of names that were used by the men to name their trenches. Some of the names were: Death Valley and Suicide Corner. There was a model of a man in a hollow tree - that was really good. The trenches were really muddy, dark and small - they were horrible. We also learnt about diseases - one of the bad ones was trench foot which was when the soldiers feet got so wet and dirty that they started to rot.

We also saw an exhibit on the air force. We found out about a man called Riltmeister Manfred von Richthoffen. He won more than 80 air battles and became known as the 'Red Barron'. He was a German pilot in the First World war. There was a painting of an English fighter pilot. He was a bit of a show off and while he was showing off he crashed his plane and badly injured his legs. As a result his legs had to be cut off and were replaced with fake legs. As soon as he had his strength back, the famous pilot started to fight again in the Second World War. He crashed again in Germany and surprisingly they took him to hospital and sent for a new pair of legs from England. When they arrived he decided to escape.

We saw V1s and V2s and plane that they fought in. In the same room was a submarine that you could play games in. In there was one of the toilets they used - luckily it was covered with plastic and on it was a sign that said if it was not flushed properly the substance would back fire at you - yuck!! Beside the toilet was a smelly bit that I didn't smell. Thomas smelt it and sat on the toilet - he started to gag and Sir got a photo of him.

We saw a 1940s house. It was really cool to see what was it was like and we had to answer lots of questions about it. After looking around the house it was time for lunch!!

After a little rest and having filled up our tummies we were off again! Next was the Blitz experience. First we talked about what was rationed - eggs, tea, sweets, sugar and much more. Then we had to pretend that we were in the 1940s and the lady who was telling us about it told us off for not bringing our gas masks - even babies had gas masks but the Germans never used gas bombs. She talked about air raids and guess what happened? There was an air raid so we had to go to the public shelter. It smelt a bit like the trenches although not so bad. We could hear next door talking and singing really loudly and then you heard a bomb and the shelter wobbled and Penny started to scream. The lady said "I think the man from the pub is hurt". She led us out into the town to see the pub windows all smashed. There was an unexploded bomb so we all had to duck down. We went past a shop which had been looted and then it was all over.

We had one more big exhibit to look at - World War Two. Out of World War One and World War Two I liked World war Two best because I liked the Blitz experience and World War Two was more interesting. In the World War Two exhibit there were lots of Nazi German things and Hitler things. I found out that Hitler had a club for boys - a bit like scouts. I saw an Enigma machine - it's really cool as it turns messages into code as a lot of messages were intercepted.

We had a long trip home but I really enjoyed my day out and would like to go again. I would like to thank Mr Vincent for taking us there and the parents for helping.

Lily P.