

WHY WEAR A POPPY

"Please wear a poppy", the lady said
and held one forth, but I shook my head.
Then I stopped and watched as she
offered them there,
And her face was old and lined with care;
But beneath the scars the years had
made
There remained a smile that refused to
fade.

A boy came whistling down the street
Bouncing along on care-free feet
His smile was full of joy and fun,
"Lady", said he, May I have one?"
When she's pinned it on he turned to say,
"Why do we wear a poppy today?"

The lady smiled in her wistful way
And answered, "This is Remembrance
Day,
And the poppy there is the symbol for
The gallant men and women who died in
war,
And because they did, you and I are free-
That's why we wear a poppy, you see.

"I had a boy about your size,
With golden hair and big blue eyes.
He loved to play and jump and shout,
Free as a bird he would race about.
As the years went by he learned and
grew
And became a man-as you will, too.

"He was fine and strong, with a boyish
smile,
But he'd seemed with us such a little
while
When war broke out and he went away.
I still remember his face that day

When he smiled at me and said "Good-
bye,
I'll soon be back, Mom, so please don't
cry".

"But the war went on and he had to stay,
And all I could do was wait and pray.
His letters told of the awful fight,
(I can see it still in my dreams at night),
With the tanks and guns and cruel
barbed wire,
And the mines and bullets, the bombs
and fire.

"Till at last, the war was won -
And that's why we wear a poppy son".
The small boy turned as if to go,
Then said "Thanks, lady, I'm glad to
know.
That sure did sound like an awful fight,
But your son-did he come back all right?"

A tear rolled down each faded cheek;
She shook her head, but didn't speak.
I slunk away in a sort of shame,
And if you were me you'd have done the
same;
For our thanks, in giving, is oft delayed,
Though our freedom was bought - And
thousands paid.

And so when we see a poppy worn,
Let us reflect on the burden borne
By those who gave their very all
And asked to answer their country's call
That we at home in peace might live.
Then wear a poppy. Remember...and
give!

Lest we forget.

