

Project:

**Book cover design – ‘All Quite on the Western Front’ (Concept)**

Medium:

Acrylic (sky added via PhotoShop)

Size:

380mm x 250mm

Working Time:

80 hours

Completed:

Comments:

The rendering of the soil and helmet aided by the labyrinth of dead grass contrasts with the butterfly's more vivid colours. A sky was originally intended to be painted but it was felt one added by computer would aid any changes needed to suit the text.

Notes:

**All Photographs by the illustrator.** The helmet was a genuine First World War German helmet (1917). The butterfly was a specimen Tortoiseshell *Aglais urtica*. (note, the book mentions a Brimstone *Gonepteryx rhanni*, however, it was felt that the Tortoiseshell had more colour.

*‘For the whole morning two butterflies have been playing around our trench. They are Brimstones, and their yellow wings have orange spots on them. I wonder what could have brought them here? There are no plants or flowers for miles. They settle on a skull.’<sup>1</sup>*



**Illustration**

**Stephen P Smith**

<sup>1</sup>Remarque. Erich Maria, *All Quite on the Western Front*, Ch: 6, p. 92