How do the poet's present war in "Vergissmeinnicht" and "Anthem for Doomed Youth"?

Both Vergissmeinnicht and Anthem explore the horrific conditions that soldiers are subjected to on the battlefield. In 'Anthem' the poet uses the simile "die as cattle" to describe the soldiers. This suggests that the soldiers are nameless, without identity, and are like animals being slaughtered on the battlefield. By comparing the soldiers to cattle, you can imagine them in large numbers, suggesting to the reader how many millions of soldiers gave up their lives during the war.

Similarly, the solder in 'Vergissmeinnicht' is described little more than a carcass, with "swart flies" on his skin. This gives the image of the carcass of a dead animal, being left out on the battlefield, decaying and being eaten by the flies. This represents the lack of respect that the soldiers received in death, and like the "cattle" in 'Anthem', they were treated poorly.

Both the poems use enjambment to reflect the monotony of war, and how the soldiers did not know when the war would end. However, the structures of the poems vary. 'Vergissmeinnicht' is written using 6 stanzas, each 4 lines long. This regular, organised structure could also reflect the never ending monotony of war, the highly organised nature of being in the army, or the lack of emotion that the soldiers are expected not to have when fighting on the battlefield.

'Anthem' is structured as a sonnet – an octet followed by a sestet. Sonnets are often used to portray feelings of love, which could reflect the feelings of the poet, that he feels the soldiers in WW2 are not respected, and do not feel loved. The sonnet could be the poet's way of trying to share feelings of love with his fellow soldiers. Unlike 'Vergissmeinnicht', 'Anthem' uses indented lines, to reflect the mixed feelings of the poet, as well as the irregularity of the dropping of bombs on the battlefield.

Compare/contrast	Quotes	Structure	Technique	Language

- *However*
- *Whereas*
- *Go into more detail*
- *In contrast*
- *Similarly*
- *Both*
- *Unlike*
- *Suggests something different*
- *Doesn't include*
- *Suggests something different*