

Veterans' Week, November 5–11, 2013

Tales of Animals in War



Our Animal Friends

Hey everybody!

Here we are in Ottawa at the new national memorial dedicated to animals that have served in war. The Animals in War Dedication has footprints of dogs, horses and mules, to remind us of the mark they left on the battlefield. There are also three bronze plaques that have carved images and interesting facts about the animals, their sacrifices, and their loyalty to their human friends. A life-size bronze dog sits, wearing a medical backpack that some war dogs carried in the First World War.

“Did you know that dogs risked their lives in wars, carrying messages, protecting humans, rescuing wounded, being mascots and alerting humans of bombs? Dogs are still employed by the Canadian Armed Forces today to find explosives, as well as in search and rescue operations because of their special senses of smell and hearing,” barked Gandy the dog.

“It is also estimated that eight million horses and mules were killed while providing transportation to soldiers and equipment in the past century alone. Horses served in the cavalry on the battlefield, and they hauled supplies through mud and up rocky hillsides while dodging bullets and explosions!” neighed Bonfire Jr. the horse.

“Elephants also carried men through steamy jungles and over mountains, and they hauled ammunition,” trumpeted Ellie the elephant. “The battlefields were terribly difficult places for animals, just as they were for humans.”

“Yeah, pigeons flew through fog, darkness and gunfire, even while wounded, to deliver important messages to help save their human friends in distress,” squawked Squeaker the pigeon.

“That’s why animals and humans also looked to each other for comfort during war,” meowed Simone the cat. “My relative served as a mascot on a warship that was attacked. Even though he was wounded, he cuddled with the sailors to help them get through that difficult time.”

“My relative was a loveable mascot for some Canadian soldiers during the First World War. She was like their furry pal! In the military, animal mascots still often serve as pets to the soldiers, and they provide fun and friendship,” said Win the bear.

Brave Canadian men and women would have suffered even more in times of war had it not been for the special help of animals. With this new monument in Canada, the efforts and sacrifices of these courageous animals are finally recognized.

Try creating a special monument in your classroom!



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Animals Afloat in the Korean War

The Korean War was fought many years ago, from 1950 to 1953. More than 26,000 brave Canadians served far from home . . . and animals served alongside them, too.

There was a bird named Joe the Crow who kept the sailors company at a Royal Canadian Navy training base in Nova Scotia during this time. There were other kinds of animals in the Navy during the Korean War, too. Alice the dog served



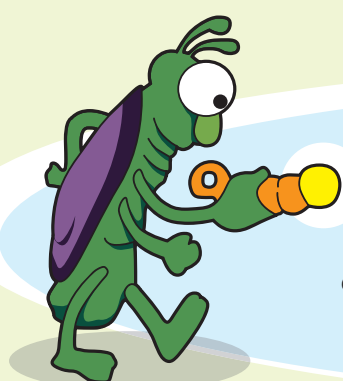
on the destroyer HMCS *Cayuga*. Given the rank of O.D. (Ordinary Dog), she had her fair share of adventures, including once when she fell into the water between two big ships. There was no way Alice could climb out by herself and the sailors were afraid she might be crushed.

The captain called for all hands on deck to rescue the pup. In the end, someone was lowered down to pull her to safety. Imagine that, a sailor risked his life to save his canine friend.

Animal mascots are no longer officially allowed on our navy's ships, but the tradition does continue in another way. Today, Sonar, a Newfoundland dog, is the official mascot of the Royal Canadian Navy. Bark on, Sonar!



Alice wearing her new sweater aboard HMCS *Cayuga*.
Photo: *Crowsnest Magazine* CA-448



Did You Know? Reading by the Bug Light!

During the First World War, using bright lights at night on the front lines was very dangerous. To avoid being spotted by the enemy, some soldiers used glow-worms to read maps and important messages after dark! These insects naturally give off a very soft blue-green light.

Hughes the Donkey Helps

People might think that animals would not be much help to soldiers in today's high-technology world, but sometimes the old ways are still the best!

More than 40,000 Canadians have served in Afghanistan since 2001, working to bring peace and help the people there recover after years of troubles. It is a very hard place for our soldiers to work. Much of the country is very mountainous, sometimes making it challenging to transport things even with four-wheel-drive trucks!

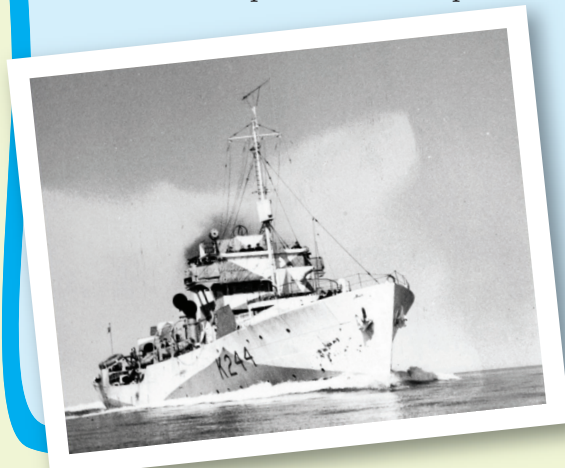
Hughes the donkey was bought there by Canadian Armed Forces engineers to help carry their equipment while on patrol. They often have to move big loads through harsh terrain, so the help of the small-but-mighty Hughes has been much appreciated. Plus just seeing the cute little donkey put a smile on the soldiers' faces. Life is dangerous for the men and women serving in Afghanistan and more than 155 of them have lost their lives over the years, but animals like Hughes have helped make their load just a little lighter.



Hughes the donkey and Canadian soldier in Afghanistan in 2008.
Photo: James McCarten - Canadian Press 4610561

A Dog's Best Friend

One night in December 1941, while serving aboard HMCS *Charlottetown* off the coast of Newfoundland, Seaman John Garland went ashore. He came back later with a little dog tucked under his arm. Seaman Garland nicknamed him Screech, after a local Newfoundland drink, and the pair became inseparable.



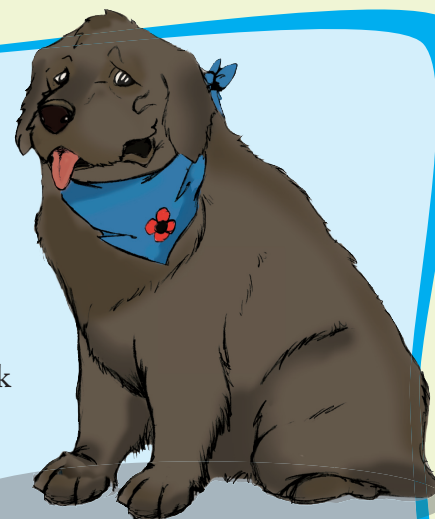
HMCS *Charlottetown* during the Second World War.
Photo: Ken Macpherson/
Naval Museum of Alberta (MC-2183)

Unfortunately, HMCS *Charlottetown* was attacked on September 11, 1942, by a U-boat (a German submarine). Taking place in broad daylight, the attack horrified onlookers who watched from the Quebec shore. The ship sank within minutes.

Seaman Garland worked quickly to ensure that crew members had life jackets. After that, he went down below to rescue the lovable ship's mascot. Screech was already in the water, however, and needed no assistance to escape. Tragically, John Garland died in the rescue attempt, along with nine other sailors who had been on board.

Screech was presented to John Garland's mother by surviving members of the crew a few weeks later.

Gandy



Bandoola and Elephant Bill

Elephants have helped armies since ancient times because of their great size, strength and intelligence. During the Second World War, an elephant named Bandoola helped Lieutenant-Colonel Jim Williams in the jungles of Burma. Elephant Bill, as he was nicknamed, oversaw a British Army elephant company, which had up to 700 of these brave beasts.

They pulled up trees that were sent to England where wood was needed; moved heavy logs to build bridges; helped launch ships; and carried people and supplies across rivers, mountains and rough roads. They also tugged heavy army trucks out of deep mud during the rainy season.

In 1944, Williams heard that the enemy was coming to take his last 47 elephants and they had to escape quickly. Bandoola courageously led the other elephants along dangerous



paths through the mountains. The journey was long and hard, but together they reached safety.

Elephant during the First World War.
Photo: Illustrated War News, February 9, 1916



Did You Know? Tunneler's Friends

During the First World War, some soldiers spent a lot of time digging tunnels under the front lines for protection from the enemy and to use in attacks. Fresh air was hard to get underground and dangerous gases often built up that could be deadly. The tunnelers sometimes took doves and rats with them—if the animals couldn't breathe, the men knew they had better get out quickly!

Mighty Warrior and Galloper Jack

Major-General Jack Seely commanded the Canadian Cavalry in France during the First World War. He was well-liked, but not as popular as his brave, fast and tough horse named Warrior.

Warrior served on the front lines for four years, and he even led one of the last great cavalry charges in history with "Galloper Jack" Seely in his saddle.

Warrior's loyalty to General Seely was so strong that he followed him around like a faithful dog, but it was obvious that General Seely was just as attached to Warrior. Once when Seely had to ride another horse, shellfire hit him and the animal was killed. The soldiers began to think of Warrior as a lucky charm.

Galloper Jack and Warrior had several close calls from bullets, shells, airplanes, mud and explosions, but somehow, when together, they always managed to survive. It is no wonder that Warrior's obituary dubbed him the "horse the Germans couldn't kill" when he finally died years later.



Painting of Seely and Warrior at the front lines in 1918.
Source: AN19900084-001
Beaverbrook Collection of War Art
©Canadian War Museum



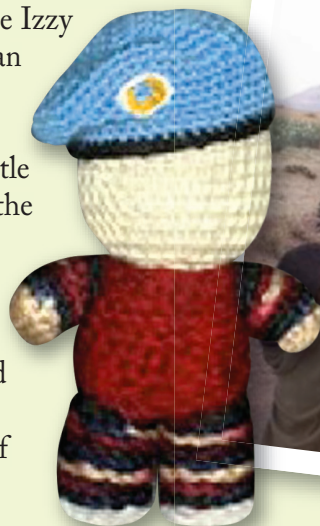
Izzy Dolls and Isfeld Dogs!

Landmines are dangerous weapons that are buried underground and can explode if someone walks on them. De-mining dogs have a super sense of smell and they use this skill to help find mines. Canadian Armed Forces engineers then carefully dig them out and take them apart so they cannot hurt anyone.

Master-Corporal Mark "Izzy" Isfeld of British Columbia worked clearing mines. He was also known for putting smiles on children's faces in war-torn countries by passing out little handmade dolls his mother had made. Sadly, Mark was killed in a landmine explosion in Croatia in 1994. After

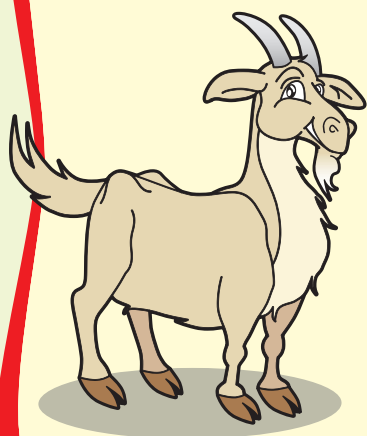
his death, his parents, Carol and Brian, worked to continue his legacy. They made Izzy dolls for Canadian Armed Forces members to help them spread a little comfort around the world.

Recently, three de-mining dogs have been named Brian, Carol and Izzy in honour of the Isfeld family.



Canadian Armed Forces members handing out Izzy Dolls in Africa in 2001.
Photo: Department of National Defence
ISD01-3125

Sergeant Bill, a Tough Old Goat!



A goat named Bill was pulling a cart in a small town in Saskatchewan when a train, carrying soldiers on their way to fight in the First World War, stopped. The girl who owned Bill let the soldiers take him along as a good luck charm. Mascots were not supposed to go to the front lines, but the soldiers had become very attached to the goat so they hid him in a big crate and took him with them.

Sergeant Bill, as the goat was called, was a big help. He saw action beside his human friends in

many battles, including one where he pushed three soldiers into a trench just seconds before a shell exploded where they had been standing.

Despite being wounded several times, Sergeant Bill survived the war. Once the fighting was over, he was even part of a big parade in Germany, proudly wearing a fancy blue coat with his sergeant stripes. He then returned to his hometown where he was reunited with his owner.

Sergeant Bill in uniform with soldier friend.
Photo: Broadview Museum

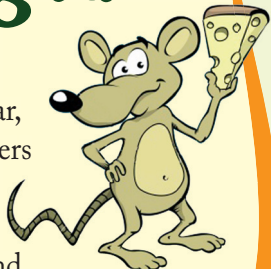


Pest Brigade

Not all animals are helpful. During the First World War, more than 90% of the soldiers in the trenches had lice. The pesky little insects made the men itch badly and they could spread a disease called trench fever.

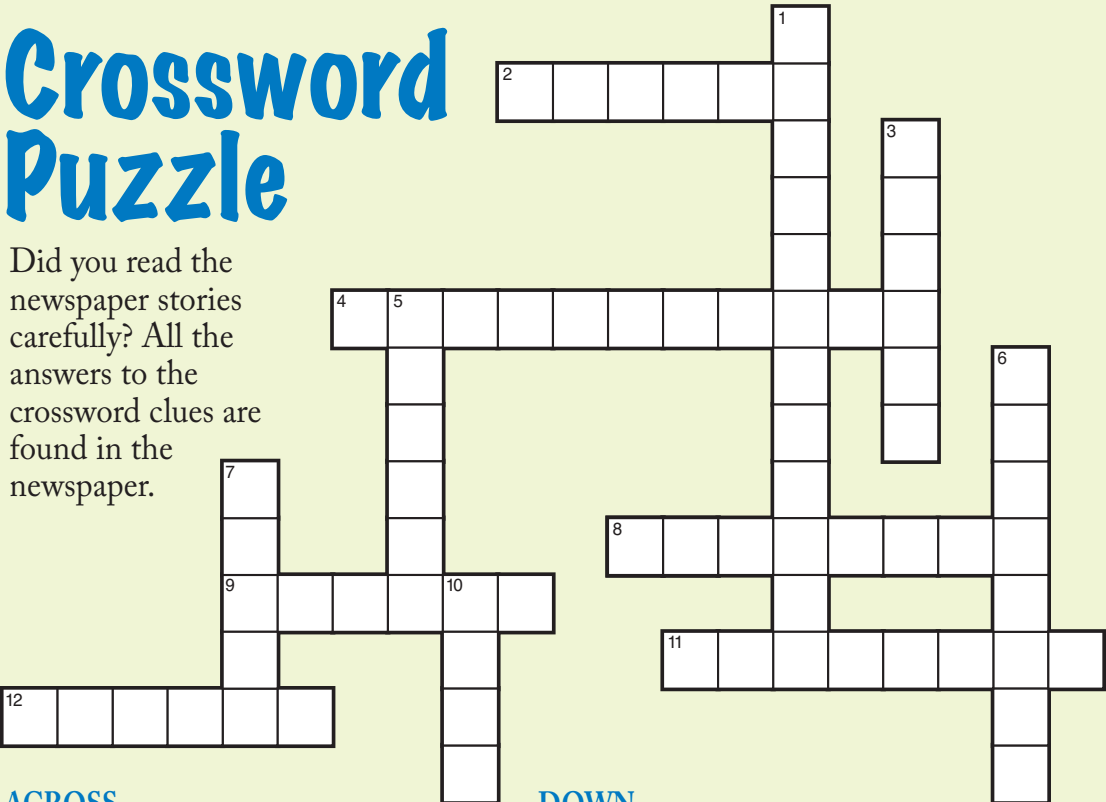
Mice and rats were also a big problem in the trenches and on warships, too. They chewed on supplies and equipment, ate the food, and spread diseases.

Canadian soldiers who have served in far-off lands, like Korea, Somalia and Afghanistan, had other pests to worry about, as well. They had to keep their eyes open for dangerous spiders, scorpions and snakes that could sneak into their tents, sleeping bags and empty boots.



Crossword Puzzle

Did you read the newspaper stories carefully? All the answers to the crossword clues are found in the newspaper.



ACROSS

- 2. Location of the new national Canadian memorial dedicated to animals that have served in war.
- 4. Mountainous country where Hughes the donkey has served.
- 8. Insect used during the First World War to read important messages at night (two words).
- 9. Last name of the Canadian engineer who gave away Izzy dolls.
- 11. Name of the elephant that helped Jim Williams in the jungles of Burma during the Second World War.
- 12. HMCS *Charlottetown* was attacked and sank off the coast of this province in September 1942.

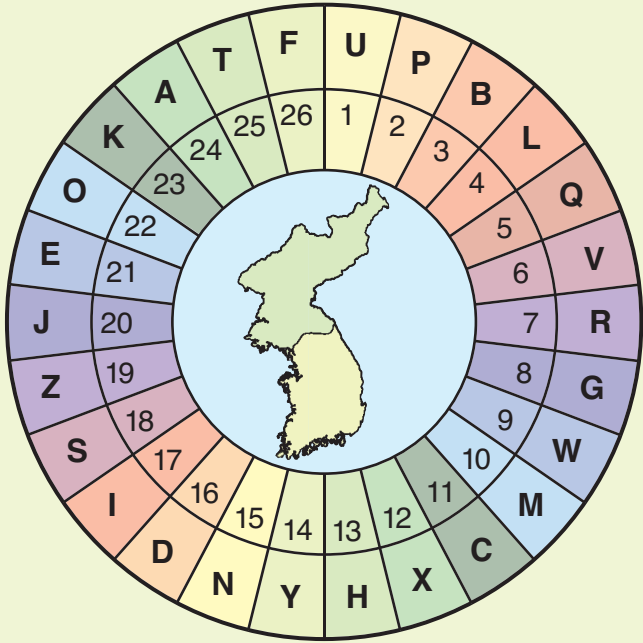
DOWN

- 1. Home province of Sergeant Bill the goat.
- 3. Type of passageway dug by soldiers during the First World War to go underground for protection on the front lines.
- 5. Country where Major-General Jack Seely commanded the Canadian Cavalry during the First World War.
- 6. Last name of the boy who designed the Forgotten Heroes animal memorial.
- 7. Name of the dog that served on Canadian destroyer HMCS *Cayuga* during the Korean War.
- 10. Little insects that could spread a disease called trench fever during the First World War.

BREAK THE CODE

During the Korean War, soldiers used secret codes to write important messages so the enemy couldn't read them. Use the key below to "crack" the secret code.

25	13	24	15	23	14	22	1
6	21	25	21	7	24	15	18



Forgotten Heroes

Noah Tremblay and friends during dedication of new memorial.
Photo: Veterans Affairs Canada

Young Noah Tremblay was the driving force behind the creation of a monument dedicated to the animals that helped people in times of war, conflict and peace. The idea originated from a heritage fair school project he did. It quickly became the 12-year-old boy's mission to raise enough money to build a monument.

He collected donations and sold beeswax lip balm and raffle tickets. He also designed the granite memorial, which was erected in



2012 "in memory of all animals and handlers who served in our military and police forces." The names of the animals and their handlers are also inscribed on it.

The Memorial to Forgotten Heroes is located in Veterans Memorial Park in Bass River, Nova Scotia.