

15 ANIMALS THAT WENT TO WAR

Over 16 million animals served in the .
They were used for transport,
communication and companionship.

In 1914, both sides had large cavalry
forces. Horse and camel-mounted
troops were used in the desert
campaigns throughout the war, but on
the Western Front, new weapons like
the machine gun made cavalry charges
increasingly difficult.

However, animals remained a crucial
part of the war effort. Horses, donkeys,
mules and camels carried food, water,
ammunition and medical supplies to
men at the front, and dogs and pigeons
carried messages. Canaries were used
to detect poisonous gas, and cats and
dogs were trained to hunt rats in the
trenches.

Animals were not only used for work.

We use cookies and similar technologies
to optimise your experience when using
this site and to help tailor our digital
advertising on third party sites. View our
and our .
and provide comfort amidst the
hardship of war.



1. NAVAL MASCOT

Togo was the cat mascot of the battleship HMS *Dreadnought*.

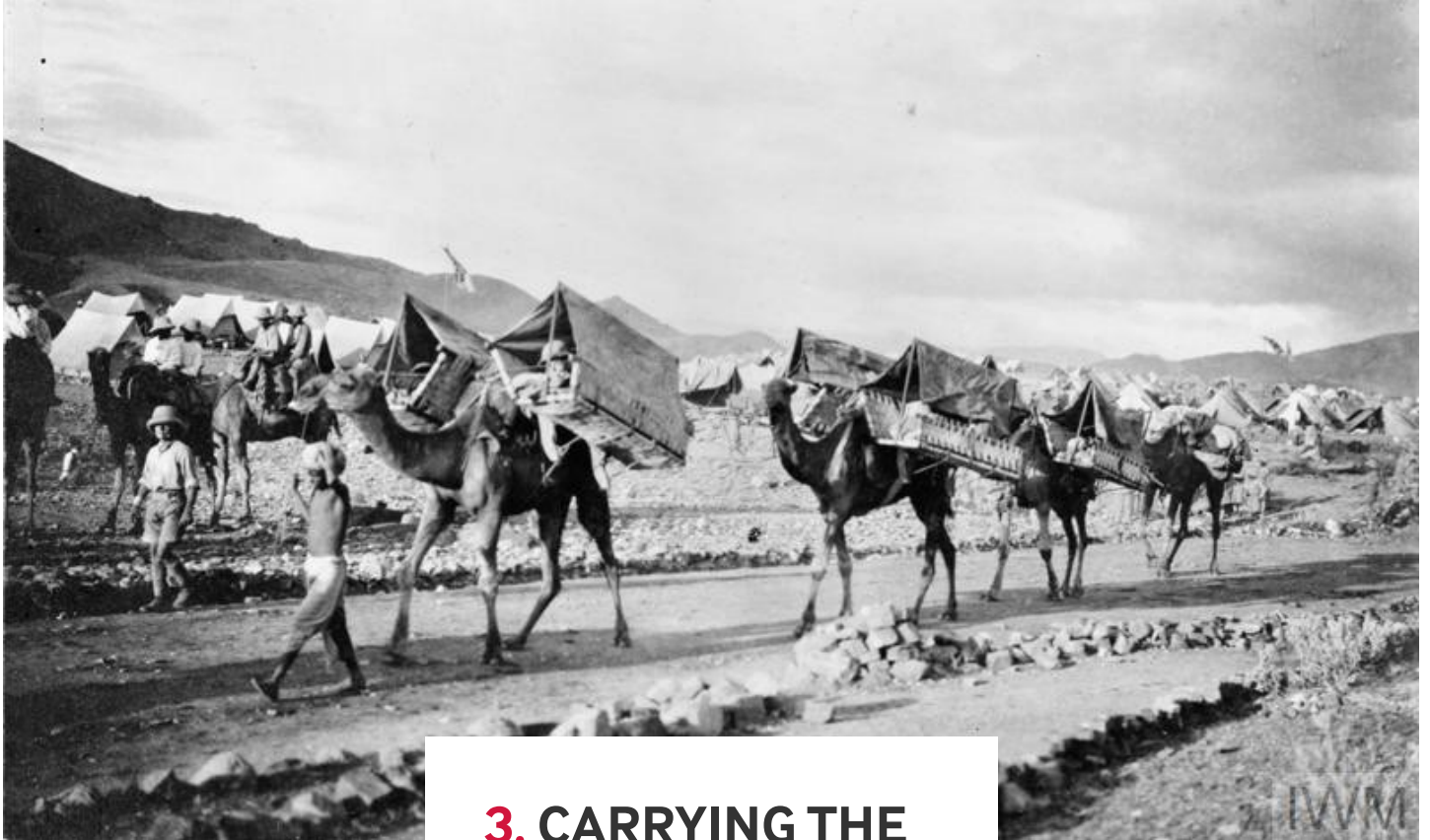
We use cookies and similar technologies to optimise your experience when using this site and to help tailor our digital advertising on third party sites. View our and our .



2. NO. 32 SQUADRON'S FOX CUB MASCOT

This fox cub was the mascot of No. 32 Squadron. The cub is pictured at Humières Aerodrome, St Pol, France in May 1918. It looks as if the cub would like to take a flight in this

bi-plane fighter.



3. CARRYING THE WOUNDED

Camels carry wounded men to safety on the North West Frontier of India in 1917.

Camels were also used in the Sinai and Palestine campaigns. Their ability to carry heavy loads and go without water

made them an ideal mode of

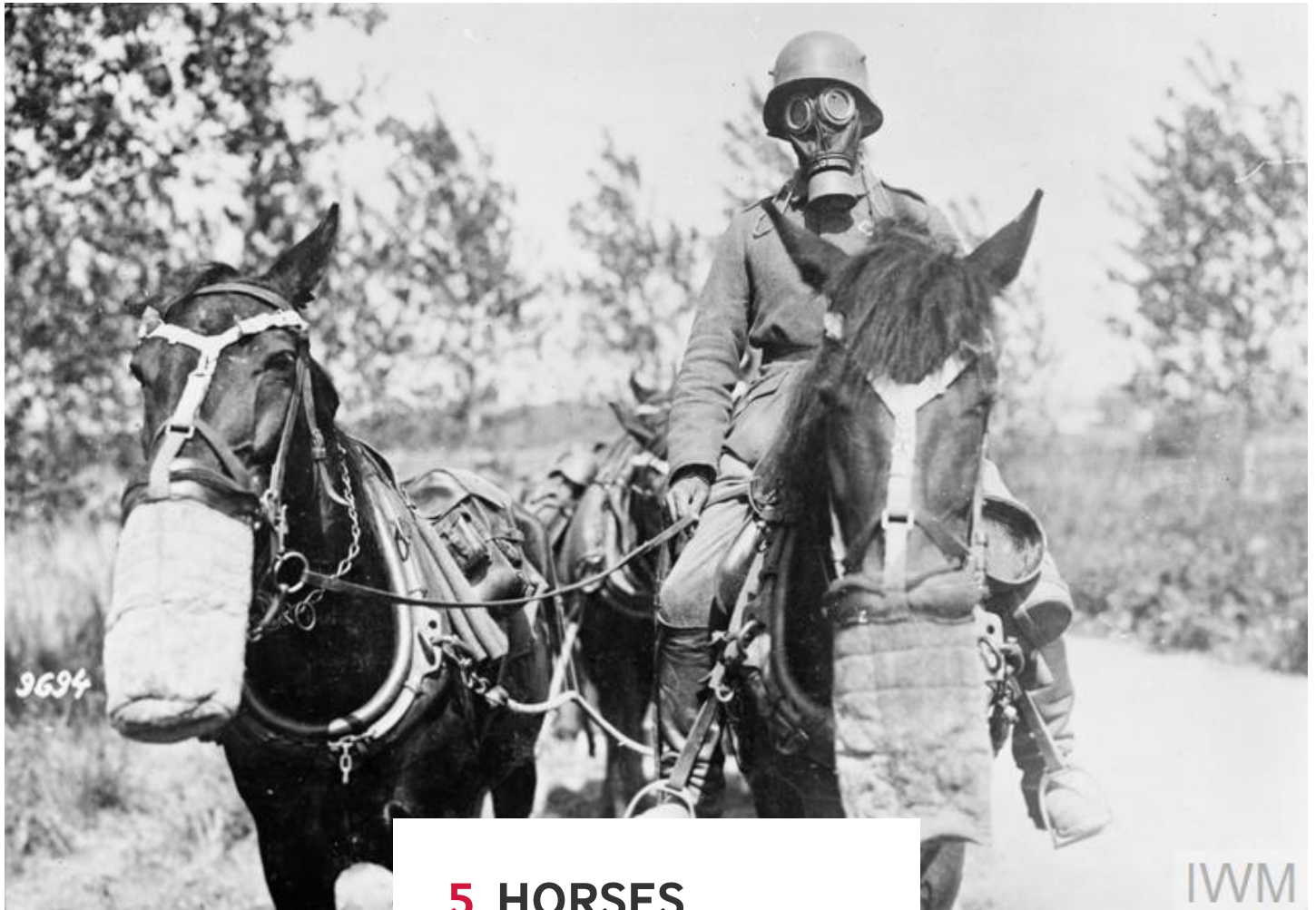
We use cookies and similar technologies to optimise your experience when using this site and to help tailor our digital advertising on third party sites. View our and our .



4. LINING UP FOR INSPECTION

French Red Cross dogs line up for inspection on the Western Front, 1914. These specially trained dogs wore harnesses

We use cookies and similar technologies to optimise your experience when using this site and to help tailor our digital advertising on third party sites. View our and our .



5. HORSES WEARING GAS MASKS ON THE WESTERN FRONT

German transport driver and horses wearing gas masks on

the Western Front, 1917

We use cookies and similar technologies to optimise your experience when using this site and to help tailor our digital advertising on third party sites. View our and our .



6. MASCOT ON A CAPTURED GERMAN TRENCH MORTAR

The monkey mascot of the

Third Army Trench Mortar

We use cookies and similar technologies to optimise your experience when using this site and to help tailor our digital advertising on third party sites. View our and our .



We use cookies and similar technologies to optimise your experience when using this site and to help tailor our digital advertising on third party sites. View our and our .

LANDING

MULES AT SALONIKA

Italians landing mules at
Salonika in October, 1916.



8. WITH THE REGIMENTAL CAT IN A TRENCH

A gunner of the York and
Lancaster Regiment with the
regimental cat in a trench near
Cambrai, France, 6 February
1918.

and our .



9. CARRIER PIGEONS IN THEIR TRAVELLING BASKET

French troops with two carrier
pigeons strapped in their

travelling basket.

We use cookies and similar technologies to optimise your experience when using this site and to help tailor our digital advertising on third party sites. View our and our .



10. LAYING TELEPHONE WIRES

A German war dog, fitted with apparatus for laying telephone wires, walking across muddy ground, 1917.

We use cookies and similar technologies to optimise your experience when using this site and to help tailor our digital advertising on third party sites. View our and our .



11. ANIMAL WELFARE ON THE WESTERN FRONT

British troops scraping mud from a mule near Bernafay

Wood on the Western Front,

1916. British military veterinarians cared for their animals properly.

We use cookies and similar technologies to optimise your experience when using this site and to help tailor our digital advertising on third party sites. View our and our .



We use cookies and similar technologies to optimise your experience when using this site and to help tailor our digital advertising on third party sites. View our and our .



12. CARRIER PIGEONS DURING A GAS DRILL

German soldiers wearing
respirators as they place carrier

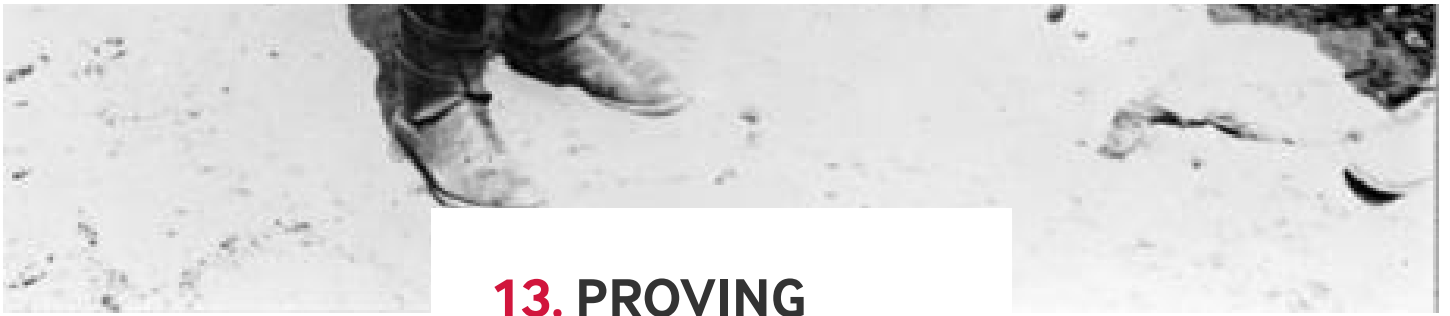
pigeons into a gas-proof
chamber, presumably during
an anti-gas drill.



We use cookies and similar technologies to optimise your experience when using this site and to help tailor our digital advertising on third party sites. View our and our .



We use cookies and similar technologies to optimise your experience when using this site and to help tailor our digital advertising on third party sites. View our [privacy policy](#) and our [terms of use](#).



13. PROVING CAMELS ARE TAME CREATURES

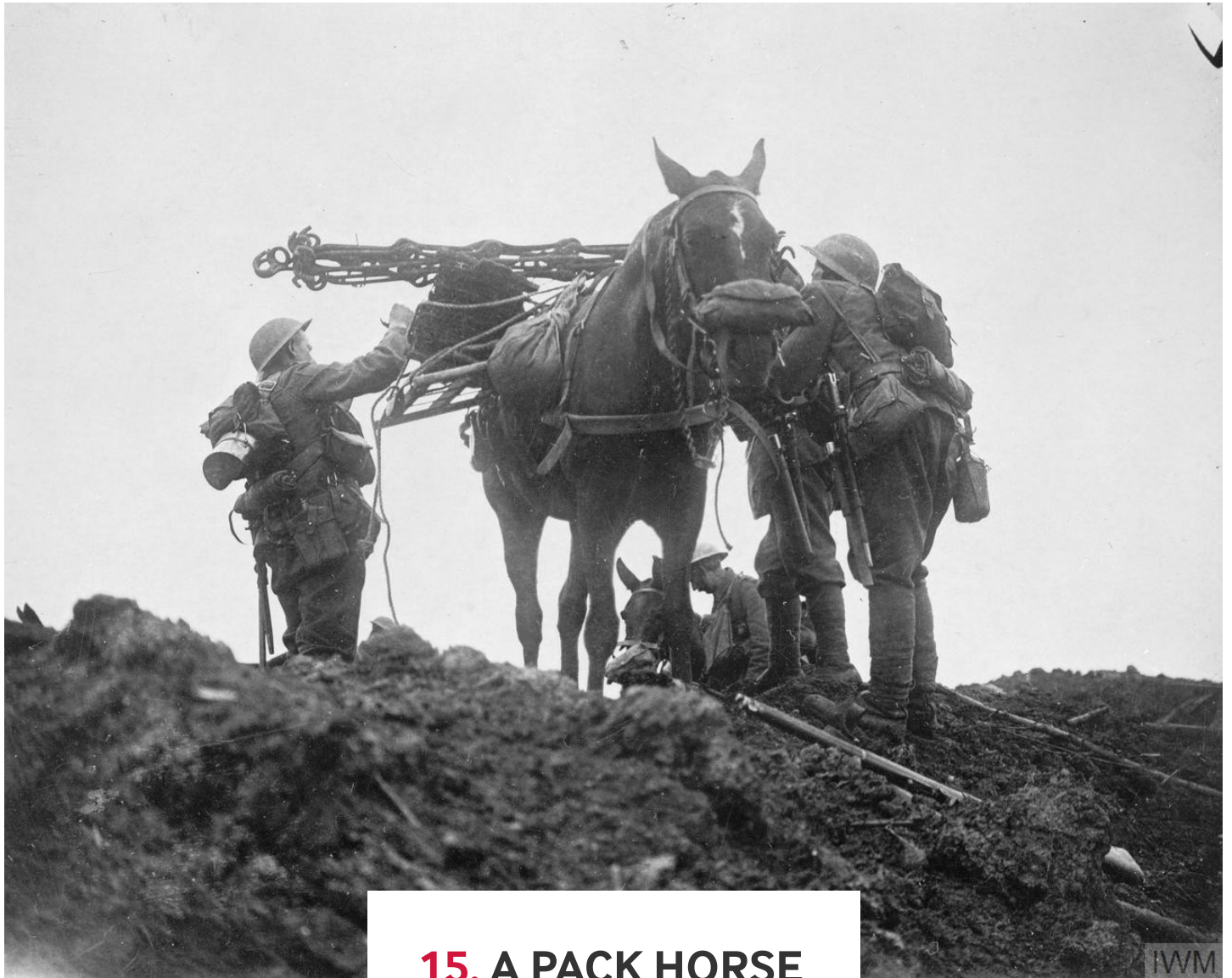
An Australian demonstrating
the docility of his camel by
putting his wrist in its mouth,
Egypt, 17 September 1917.



We use cookies and similar technologies
to optimise your experience when using
this site and to help tailor our digital
advertising on third party sites. View our
and our.

14. MESSENGER
DOG ON THE
WESTERN FRONT

A dog handler of the Royal Engineers (Signals) reads a message brought to him by a messenger dog, France, 19 May 1918.



15. A PACK HORSE DURING THE BATTLE OF PILCKEM RIDGE

We use cookies and similar technologies to optimise your experience when using this site and to help tailor our digital advertising on third party sites. View our and our

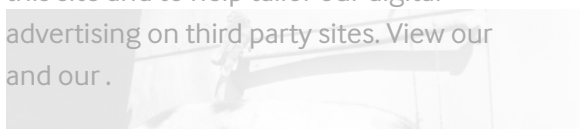
A pack horse with a gas mask is loaded up with equipment at Pilckem Ridge, Belgium, 31 July 1917.

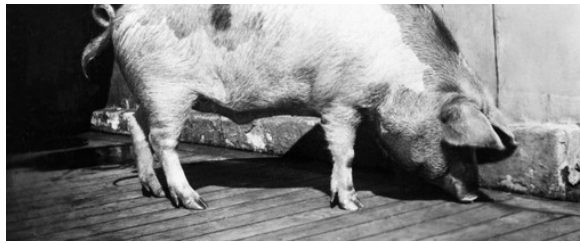
EXPLORE MORE STORIES

FIRST WORLD WAR

Animals have played a role in armed conflict throughout history, and the First World War was no different. Hear how millions of horses were used by all the combatant nations to transport men, supplies and equipment, as well as how pigeons and dogs were trained to carry messages.

We use cookies and similar technologies to optimise your experience when using this site and to help tailor our digital advertising on third party sites. View our and our .





FIRST WORLD WAR

From Tirpitz the pig, the mascot of HMS *Glasgow*, Warrior the horse, and Rip the a stray dog, to Gustav, one of the RAF's messenger pigeons, and Wojtek the 'Soldier Bear', meet 9 famous animals from the First and Second World Wars.



ANIMALS AT WAR

Throughout history animals have accompanied men into combat as modes of transport and communication, protectors and companions. Here are some of the ways animals have helped the war effort from the First World War to the present day.

Share this

We use cookies and similar technologies to optimise your experience when using this site and to help tailor our digital advertising on third party sites. View our and our .

Commercial & Licensing

Keep In Touch

© IWM 2020

We use cookies and similar technologies to optimise your experience when using this site and to help tailor our digital advertising on third party sites. View our and our .