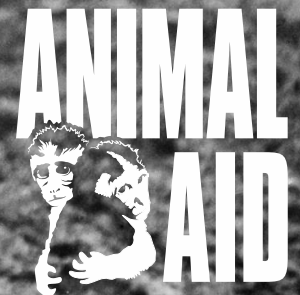


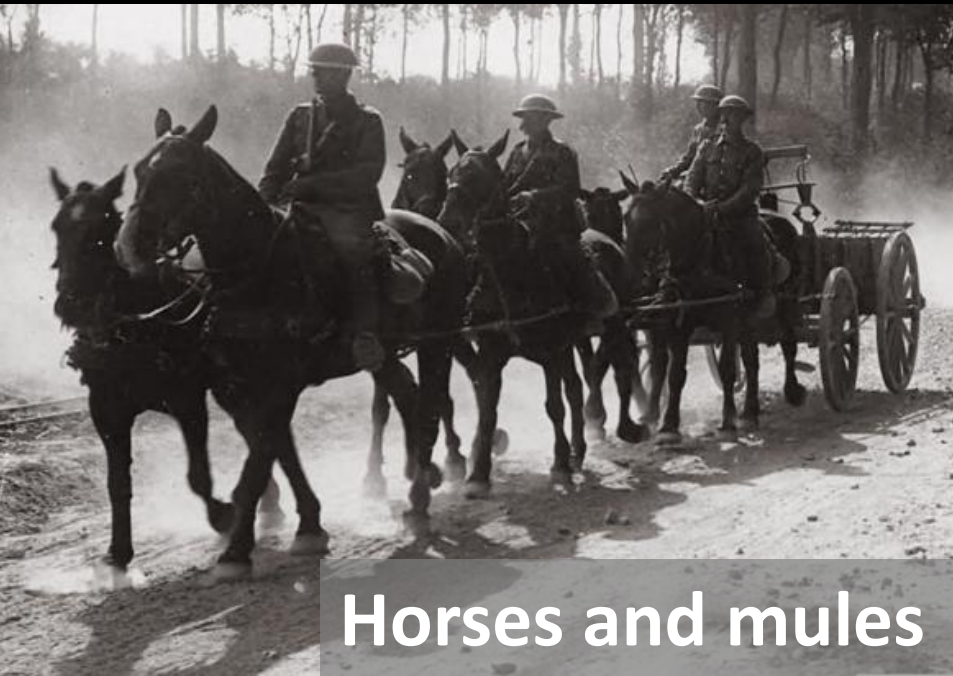
'THE ANIMALS' WAR



WWI 1914 - 1918



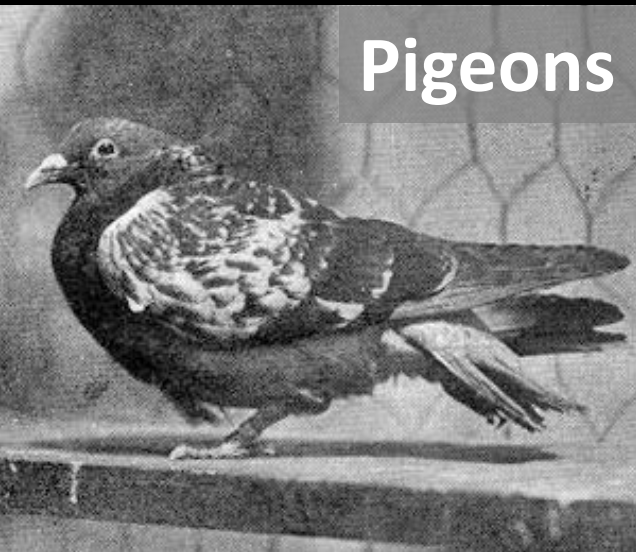
A wide variety of animals played an active part in WWI



Horses and mules



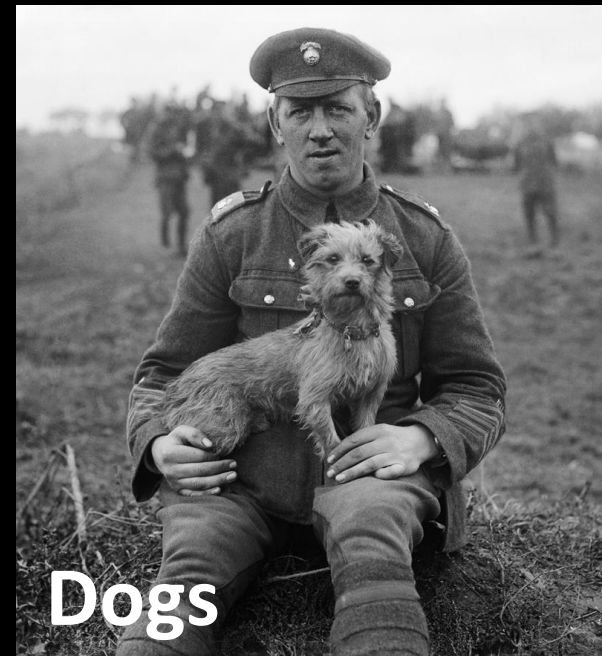
Camels



Pigeons



Canaries



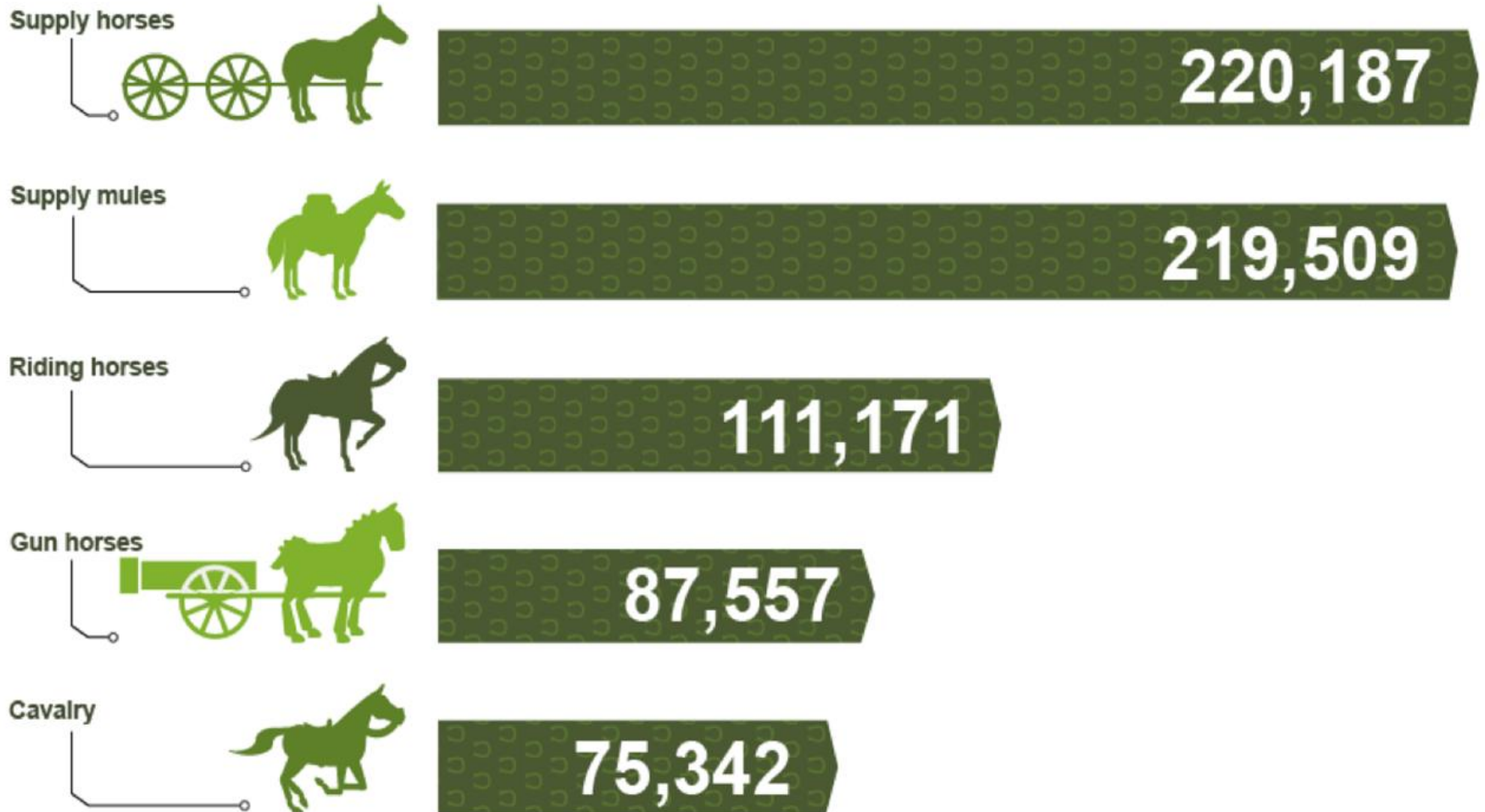
Dogs

HORSES



Horses performed many different roles in WWI

British Army in November 1918
Horses and mules



Cavalry



Royal Scots Greys practising a cavalry charge before they go into battle

Artillery



Teams of horses were used to pull guns to and from the front

Carrying supplies



Most horses and mules
were used to carry supplies
and equipment to the troops at the front

Many wounded horses were treated at Royal Army Veterinary Corps animal hospitals



8 million horses mules and donkeys died in action



484,000 horses and mules died in the British army



Horses of a British ammunition limber killed by a German shell



But most died from cold, hunger, exhaustion and disease



British troops scraping mud from a mule on the Western Front in November 1916

What happened to the horses when the war ended?

There were **800,000** horses and mules in the British army

25,000 were retained in the British army

60,000 -100,000 were auctioned in Britain

The remainder were sold where they were to farmers and butchers



CAMELS

Imperial Camel corps fought in
the hot deserts of Egypt and
Palestine



24,000 camels were killed in action, but more than four times this number, 97,200, died from disease, exhaustion and neglect

DOGS



Dogs performed many different roles in WWI



Carry messages



Companionship



Give first aid



Haul machine guns



Lay telephone cables



Sentry

Training



Dogs who passed training
were sent to the front, while those who
failed to make the grade were often put down

**Messenger dogs
faced many
hazards on the
battlefield**



A German messenger dog leaps a trench on the Western Front, 1917

**Messenger dogs injured
by mustard gas**





Wounded German messenger dogs being treated at a Dog Hospital

Mascots and companions

Sammy was the mascot of the Northumberland Fusiliers. He went to France with the Regiment in April 1915, was wounded and gassed during the Second Battle of Ypres the following month. He was buried by shellfire on several occasions and died in action with many of his companions on the Somme in 1916





At the end of the war, rather than being re-homed or returned to their original owners, many animals were simply abandoned

PIGEONS

Canadian soldiers release a messenger pigeon from a trench on the Western Front, 1917







A former London bus, used as a loft for carrier-pigeons. Pernes, 1918

PIGEON MESSAGE

RECEIVED AT MESSAGE CENTER ~~10:22 PM~~ 4:22 PM

TO C. O. 308th INFANTRY

FROM 1st BN 308th INFANTRY

WE ARE ALONG THE ROAD PARALELL 276.4. OUR ARTILLERY IS DROPPING
A BARRAGE DIRECTLY ON US. FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE STOP IT.

WHITTLESAY
MAJ 308th

BIRD RELEASED 3 P.M.

RECEIVED AT LOFT 4:05 PM.

DISTRIBUTION

G 3

G 3 BULLETIN BOARD

C OF S

G 2

152 FIELD ARTILLERY BRIGADE
FILE

6 10 70

Oct 7

540

④

277-3216



Cher Ami, a famous messenger pigeon who served in the US army, recovering from battle minus a leg. He later died of his wounds

U.S. OFFICIAL

Injured messenger pigeons in the pens at Sorrus 1918. Each had lost a leg in the fighting

Of the 100,000 pigeons used by all sides in the war, it is thought that about 20,000 were killed in action



CANARIES



A member of an Australian
Tunnelling Company with
canaries and mice in cages





Canaries and mice were used by miners in the tunnels to warn them of the presence of poisonous gas



‘They had no choice’?
Heroes or victims?



www.animalaid.org.uk