



Glow Worms Do Their Part

Soldiers in the First World War spent a lot of time in trenches and tunnels. They could not use lanterns at night because the enemy would see them. So, soldiers used glow worms to read important messages or maps in the dark. The

worms give off a blue-green light.



Rats!

Rats still serve soldiers today! Gambian giant pouched rats locate landmines in African fields. The rats can smell the mines, and aren't big enough to make them explode. The rats get a banana or a peanut when they help find a mine.



Tunnelers' Friends

During the Second World War, soldiers sent doves and rats into the tunnels behind enemy lines to detect bad air and poison gas.



Pest Brigade

Not all animals in war were helpful. During the day, mockingbirds, toads and moths bothered soldiers with their cooing, croaking and scurrying. At night, when soldiers needed their rest or were on guard, night pests scared them.

Tales of Animals in War



Smart Dogs Save Lives:

MEET FANNY AND ALEX, MINE DETECTION SPECIALISTS!

Fanny and Alex, two German Shepherd dogs, spent six months training to recognize the smell of the explosives in landmines. Terrible injuries and death can result when someone steps on one of these buried explosives. Fanny and Alex and other "de-mining dogs" sniff out some of the millions of landmines buried around the world.



Mine Detection Dogs Fanny and Alex
Source: Canadian Landmine Foundation

More Than Mascots:

ANIMALS AID IN WAR AND PEACE SUPPORT MISSIONS

Remembrance Club Members Share Stories of Animals in War

Left to Right: Squeaker, Bonfire Jr., Simone, Gandy, Ellie and Win

Imagine being a pigeon awarded a medal for bravery in war! This is just one of the interesting stories you'll find in this special newspaper produced for you by Veterans Affairs Canada.

The members of the Remembrance Club (Gandy, Squeaker, Win, Simone, Ellie and Bonfire Jr.) have ancestors who were pretty amazing animal heroes. They worked to help humans in times of war and peace support missions.

Every Remembrance Day (November 11), it is important to remember the men and women who served and died in war and peace support efforts. It is also nice to remember

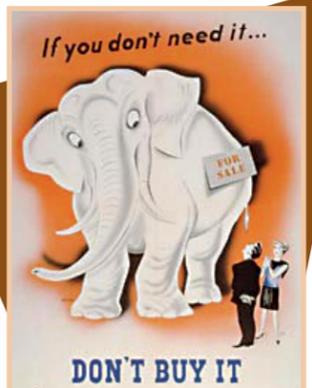
the brave efforts of the animals who served and helped these people.

In this newspaper you will read the incredible stories about the relatives of the members of the Remembrance Club. Their relatives saved lives, pulled supplies over mountains and through streams, carried the mail, delivered messages, sniffed for bombs and remained loyal friends to the men and women in Canada's military. These brave animals helped Canadian soldiers and people in countries around the world.

The Dickin Medal

The Dickin Medal, which was created in 1943 by Maria Dickin, is awarded to animals for their brave acts. Only 60 animals have received the Dickin Medal: 32 pigeons, 24 dogs, three horses, and one cat—Simon!

The words on the medal say: "For Gallantry" and "We also Serve."



Wars cost a lot of money. During the Second World War, this poster reminds people to be careful about how much they are spending. Money is needed for soldiers' food, clothing, and weapons.

© Library and Archives Canada, CWM 1970/186-048 (Alex McLaren)

Human & Animal Partnerships

Furry & Feathered Friends Serving in War

CAT AIDS CREW OF THE HMS AMETHYST

BY SIMONE, MONTRÉAL, QUEBEC



Simon stayed onboard with the men. He was injured too, but he continued to do his job.

Cats have been valued on ships for their rat-catching abilities and their furry friendliness. During wartime, when a seaman was far from hugs at home, a cat could bring a lot of comfort. Some cats became war heroes. Maybe you've never thought of a cat as a hero? Think again! Simon became the most celebrated and honoured cat of our time.

He was born in 1947 in Hong Kong on a busy dockyard for ships. Abandoned, he was adopted by a seaman who brought him back to his British ship, HMS *Amethyst*, to kill some of the rats onboard. Simon did his job well—he also became a cuddly friend of the men.

The *Amethyst* was sent to protect the British people on the Yangtze River in China, but one day in April, the ship was attacked. During the battle, some of the seamen were killed and the ship sailed into shore.

Men tried to escape from the ship, but many were

killed as soon as they left the *Amethyst*. About 50 men remained onboard—some of them were hurt. The ship was heavily guarded by the enemy for three months.

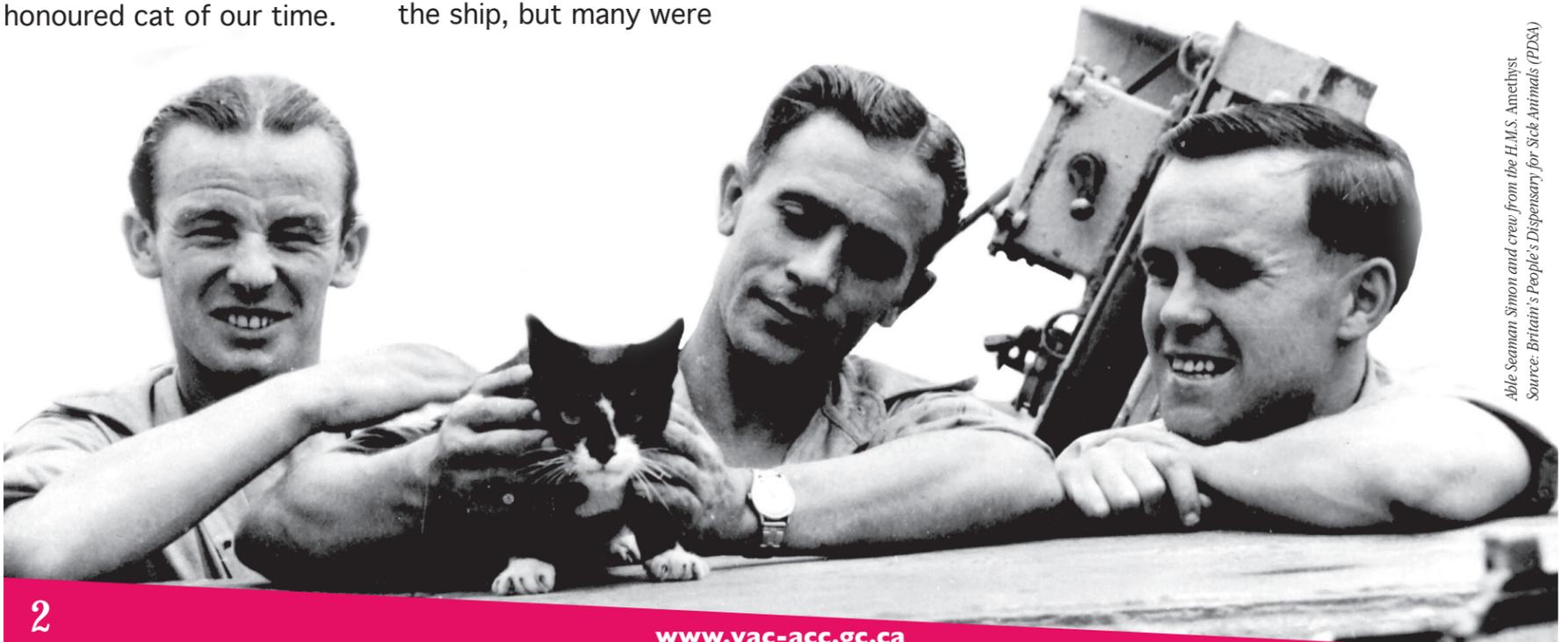
Simon stayed onboard with the men. He was injured too, but he continued to do his job. He caught at least one rat a day, often more, which helped boost the crew's spirits because he was helping to save their food supply. Simon also found another job. Several of the seamen lay unwell in the sick bay, shocked and wounded from their experiences under fire. The doctor onboard thought Simon could help, and he encouraged the cat to sit on their bunks, where he would knead his paws and purr, and tend to his own wounds. His own injuries helped the sailors relate to him and they started to welcome his visits, which helped them get over their own injuries.

After 101 days, the seamen were finally able to escape and sailed the *Amethyst* back to Hong Kong. News about Simon and the crew was grabbed by newspaper and radio reporters and shared with the world.

Simon became famous. Letters and gifts from around the world were sent to him, and there were even poems written about him!

Simon was soon awarded the Dickin Medal—the only cat to ever receive this honour. A special cat collar, woven with the Medal's ribbon colours, was made for Simon to wear.

He was due to be presented with the Dickin Medal in December 1949; but the cat-hero died the month before. The *Amethyst* crew was very sad and upset. They buried Simon, with full Naval honours, in a pet cemetery near London, England. When Simon's death was announced, his photograph and a story about his deeds appeared in *Time*, a magazine read by millions of people around the world.



Able Seaman Simon and crew from the H.M.S. Amethyst
Source: Britain's People's Dispensary for Sick Animals (PDSA)

MASCOT DOG SACRIFICED LIFE FOR HUMAN COMRADES

BY GANDY, ST. JOHN'S, NEWFOUNDLAND



Gander with the Royal Rifles of Canada departing for Hong Kong in 1941. Source: Hong Kong Veterans Commemorative Association.

Gander was a mascot, but he was also seen as a fellow soldier with jobs to perform.

United Nations Aims to Maintain World Peace

The United Nations (UN) is made up of 192 countries from around the world. Canada is one of the nations that provides them with peacekeeping advice and expert peacekeepers. This year, they are celebrating the 50 years of peacekeeping.

The UN was set up in 1945. The aims are:

- to keep world peace;
- for countries to be good global neighbours;
- to end poverty, disease and illiteracy in the world;
- to stop harm to the environment;
- to respect human and children's rights; and
- to keep the world free from war.



I know we're not supposed to boast, but I'm so proud of my ancestor, Sergeant Gander. I've got to share his story. He was a Newfoundland dog, like me, and was raised by the Hayden family on the airport base in Gander, Newfoundland.

He was a friendly dog who loved playing with children. He pulled them on their sleds and they watched him drool—Newfoundland dogs drool a lot!—He enjoyed living on the base but spent too much time on the runways, trying to catch the planes as they came in to land.

One day, because he was growing to be so large, the Hayden family decided to give the playful dog to the Royal Rifles of Canada Regiment stationed at the Gander airport. (Did you know that Newfoundland dogs can grow to weigh 55 kilograms? That's one BIG dog!) He quickly became a good friend and mascot.

In 1941, the Royal Rifles of Canada Regiment was sent to Hong Kong to defend the land from an enemy invasion. The men couldn't bear to leave Gander behind, so they gave him the rank of "Sergeant" and he boarded the troopship with his fellow soldiers!

Fred Kelly was the soldier responsible for feeding Gander and giving him cool showers to keep him comfortable in the heat (Newfoundland dogs have very heavy fur). Taking care of Gander was a pleasant duty for Kelly and his regiment. During wartime the companionship of a dog reminded many of the men of pets and family at home.

Gander was a mascot, but he was also seen as a fellow soldier with a job to perform. He would bark and nip at the legs of the enemy, scaring them away. One night in December 1941, Gander showed his true courage.

He was a smart dog—he knew what a grenade was and how it could hurt people. That night, Gander

saw a grenade tossed near a group of wounded Canadian soldiers. He ran to it, took it, and rushed away with it. The grenade exploded and Gander was killed. But he had saved the lives of the seven soldiers! Those men never forgot Sergeant Gander.

In 2000, Gander was awarded the Dickin Medal for his bravery during a gathering of Veterans in Ottawa. There stood Fred Kelly with a Newfoundland dog named Rimshot, who represented Gander, the brave mascot-soldier. Gander's medal was the first awarded to a Canadian animal and is now displayed at the Canadian War Museum in Ottawa.



Artist: Anne Mainman

Courtesy of: Newfoundland Friends - Newfoundland Dogs Working For Children's Charities

HERO PIGEONS: Feathered Friends

BY SQUEAKER, OTTAWA, ONTARIO



Beachcomber is being presented with his PDSA Dickin Medal by Dorothea St. Hill Bourne, Secretary of the PDSA Allied Forces Mascot Club. Beachcomber is being held by Sergeant Andre Meischke of the Royal Corps of Signals. *Source: Britain's People's Dispensary for Sick Animals (PDSA).*

Animal Memorials

My relative Beachcomber served with the Canadian Army as a carrier pigeon delivering messages during the Second World War. This was an important job because the soldiers in the field, sailors on ships and pilots in airplanes needed the ability to communicate and send messages about their progress, to request supplies or call for help.

Soldiers wrote messages on very small pieces of paper. The message was then put inside a small container and attached to one of Beachcomber's legs, shown below.

The container wasn't heavy, but it must have felt funny on his leg. Can you imagine, flying with something attached to your ankle?

Often, two pigeons were sent off carrying the same message so if one of them didn't make it, the message would still reach its destination. When the pigeons were released, they tried to fly to their coop. When they landed, a bell or buzzer went off and the soldiers knew that a message

had arrived and instructions based on the message were given out.

I imagine the pigeons must have been scared. They flew for many kilometres in all kinds of weather. The sky was sometimes filled with gun fire. Some of the pigeons didn't complete their journeys and others were wounded. It was dangerous but these birds were loyal and faithful to their owners. They were amazing!

We should know that the men and women who served their countries were helped by animals and birds, like Beachcomber.

Beachcomber brought the first news of the landing at Dieppe, under hazardous conditions in August 1942, while serving with the Canadian Army. For this, he was awarded the Dickin Medal on March 6, 1944.

Around the world, grateful people have built permanent memorials to honour the millions of animals that lost their lives in war. In Ottawa, Canada's capital, the stone wall at the entrance to the Memorial Chamber in the Parliament Buildings has carved animals and the words "The Humble Beasts that Served and Died."

In Lille, France, a graceful statue of a woman with a carved pigeon sitting on her outstretched hand is a memorial for the messenger pigeons who saved so many soldiers and citizens during the wars. In 2004, the Animals in War Memorial was unveiled in London, England's Hyde Park. Horses, mules, dogs, elephants, camels, pigeons and even glow worms are remembered there.



VAC Photo



MAN'S BEST FRIEND

BY BONFIRE, JR., GUELPH, ONTARIO

My ancestor was a wonderful horse named Bonfire. He was given as a gift to Dr. John McCrae.

Ships carried men and supplies to the wars in Europe, and among those supplies were horses—thousands of horses. Once hard-working in the farm fields of Canada, they soon shared the terror and fear of war that the men who would ride them into battle felt.

My ancestor was a wonderful horse named Bonfire. He was given as a gift to Dr. John McCrae.

There were no jeeps to carry doctors and nurses to the wounded in the First World War. There were no helicopters to drop a doctor into a war zone. Bonfire would get the doctor where he had to be.

During the First World War millions of horses carried men into battle, delivered messages, and pulled equipment through fields, thick with sloppy mud and snow. Horses were hungry and tired, just like the soldiers they served, but they kept working.

Dr. McCrae sometimes rode on Bonfire when he just wanted time to himself. Away they would ride into the fields, or on a cold night, into the snow.

John McCrae wrote many letters to his family in Canada during the war. He often mentioned Bonneau, the abandoned dog he adopted overseas, and Bonfire. Here's a piece of one letter:

"I have a very deep affection for Bonfire, for we have been through so much together, and some of it bad enough. All the hard spots to which one's memory turns the old fellow has shared though he says so little about it."

Dr. McCrae especially liked to write to his sister's children. Sometimes he pretended the letter was written by Bonfire and drew a horseshoe at the bottom of the letter—Bonfire's "signature." The letter below is to his young nephew, Jack Kilgour.

I am proud to say that Bonfire was my ancestor. When Dr. John McCrae became ill and died in 1918 (the same year the war ended), Bonfire proudly took part in his owner's funeral procession and spent his final years in retirement.

October 1st, 1916

Did you ever eat blackberries? My master and I pick them every day on the hedges. I like twenty at a time. My leg is better but I have a lump on my tummy. I went to see my doctor today and he says it is nothing at all. I have another horse staying in my stable now; he is black and about half my size. He does not keep me awake at night.

Yours truly,
Bonfire

John McCrae on Bonfire. Courtesy of Guelph Museums, McCrae House.



Did You Know?

Dr. John McCrae, Bonfire's owner, was the Canadian who wrote the famous poem *In Flanders Fields* in 1915.



BEARS AS MASCOTS?

BY WIN, WINNIPEG, MANITOBA



Harry Colebourn and Winnie at Salisbury Plain in 1914.
Source: Provincial Archives of Manitoba, Colebourn,
D. Harry Collection, No. N10467

I think my ancestor is the most famous of all—Winnie the Bear. She inspired the character that we all know as “Winnie the Pooh!”

In 1914, just after the First World War began, Harry Colebourn of Winnipeg began his train trip to the army camp in Valcartier, Quebec. Canadian Forces Base (CFB) Valcartier is located 25 km west of Quebec City. CFB Valcartier was erected as a military camp in August of 1914 to train soldiers at the beginning of the First World War. Because of its location close to the port of Quebec, it became the largest military camp on Canadian soil, having some 32,000 men and 8,000 horses.

It was a long ride to CFB Valcartier, so the train made a stop in White River, Ontario. That’s where Harry met my relative, a cute black bear cub whose mother had been killed by a trapper.

Harry bought the cub for \$20 and named her “Winnie,” after—you guessed it—Winnipeg, Manitoba, his hometown. Winnie became the mascot of Harry Colebourn’s infantry brigade and sailed across the Atlantic Ocean to England with her new friends.

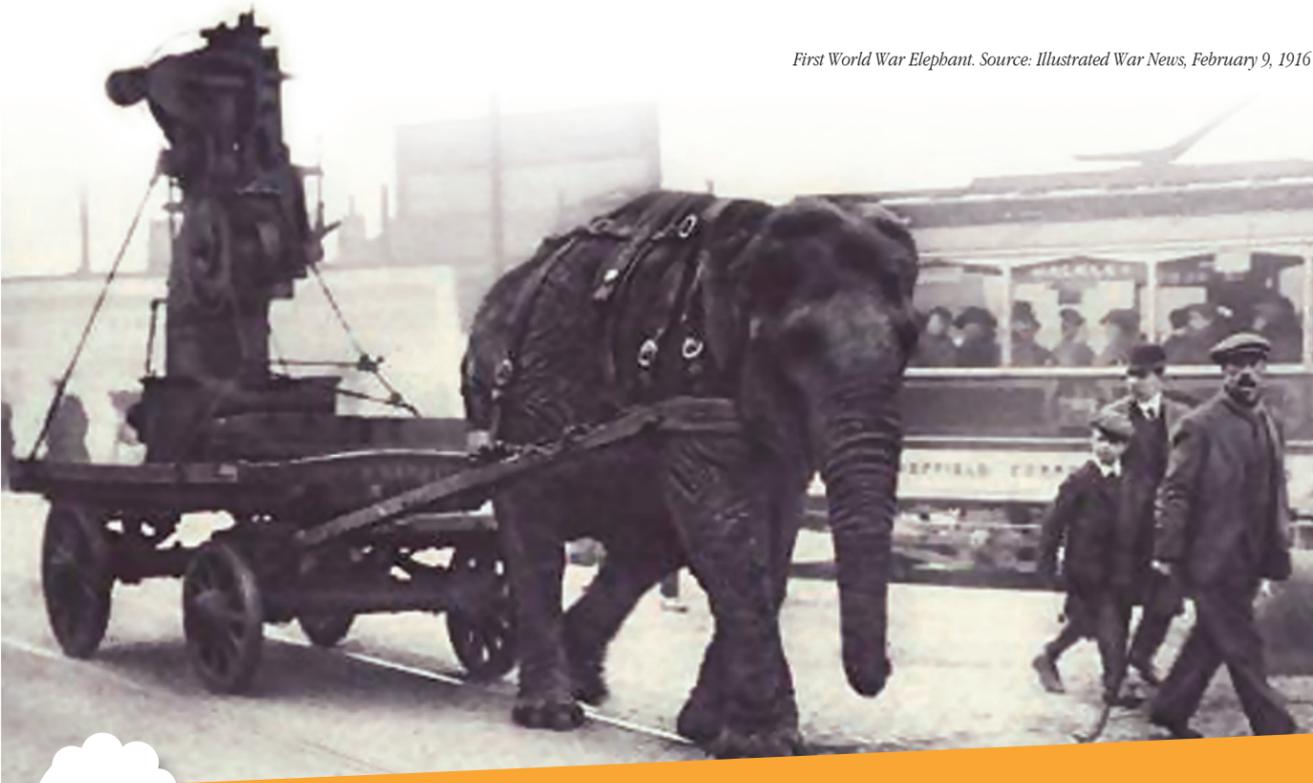
Soon after he arrived in England, Harry Colebourn was sent to the war in France. It wouldn’t be safe for the bear cub or the soldiers to have Winnie with the army, so Harry donated Winnie to the London Zoo. She would be cared for and the children of London would be able to enjoy seeing Winnie.

During the war, Harry Colebourn worked with the Canadian Army Veterinary Corps—more animals for Harry! And lots of children visited the London Zoo to see Winnie. One of those children was Christopher Robin Milne, whose father was a writer. After their visit, Christopher Robin named his toy teddy bear “Winnie the Pooh.” His father wrote a book about his son and his bear.

Winnie the girl-bear became Winnie the boy-bear in the story. Now, millions of children around the world know the name Winnie. I live in Winnipeg where the story began and where you can see almost-life-size statues of Harry Colebourn and Winnie in Assiniboine Park Zoo.



Winnie featured in her own signed publicity shot, dated February 16, 1916. Provincial Archives of Manitoba, Colebourn D. Harry 15 Collection, No. N10473



BIG BODY, BRIGHT BRAIN

BY ELLIE, VANCOUVER, BRITISH COLUMBIA

Elephants have helped armies since ancient times. This is because we are strong and big. My relative Bandoola could pull trees out of the ground, move heavy logs to build bridges, and carry people and supplies across rivers, mountains and rough roads. During the Second World War, he assisted Jim Williams who was the officer in charge of the British Army's No. 1 Elephant Company in Burma (the country now called Myanmar). In the heat of the jungles, Jim worked with up to 700 elephants, each one helping the army. Sometimes the elephants pulled up trees that were sent to England where wood was needed. They also tugged heavy army trucks out of deep mud during the rainy season.

Elephants like Bandoola were important during both peace and war times for

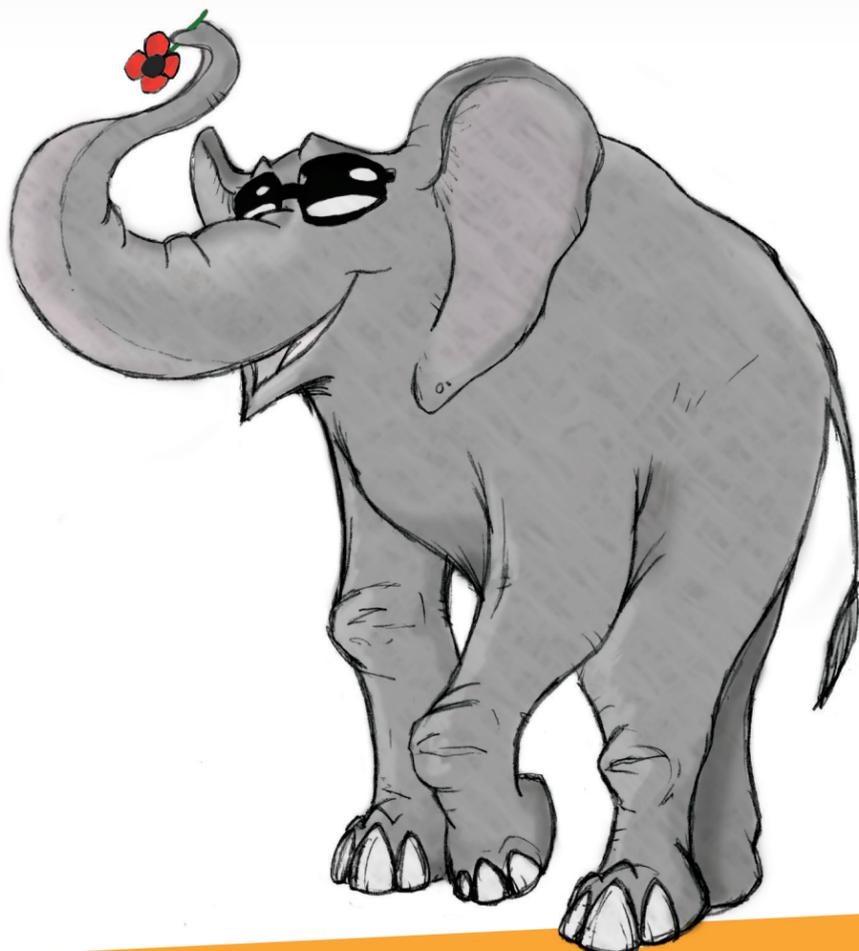
their size and strength but also because elephants (such as myself!) are smart—we can remember our training. Because we are so intelligent, we are loyal to our handlers. That is why Bandoola did his job, even when the weather was bad, and even when they were under attack in Burma.

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

the mountains. The journey was long and hard, but on the other side of the mountains, Jim and the elephants were safe.

After the Second World War, Jim Williams wrote books about the elephants. He wanted more people to know about how incredibly strong and smart animals can be and what their contributions were to the people of Burma and the soldiers of Britain.

I know I'll always remember what the elephants did, because like all elephants, I never forget!



When Did Animals Serve In War?

Mark the year of your Birthday!

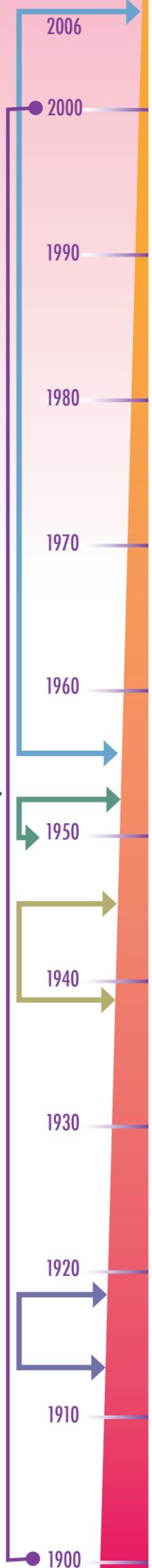
A Century
100 Years
(1900 - 2000)

Peace Support
Missions
1956 - Present

Korean War
1950 - 1953

Second
World War
1939 - 1945

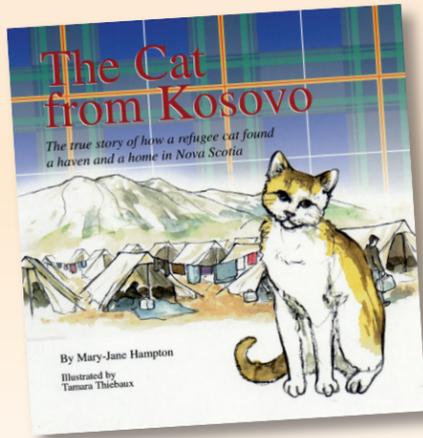
First
World War
1914 - 1918



ENTERTAINMENT

The Cat from Kosovo

By: Mary-Jane Hampton
 Illustrated: Tamara Thiebaux Heikalo
 Nimbus Publishing:
 Nova Scotia



Life was good for Olsa, her husband Bashkin and their cat Mishka in Pristina, the capital of Kosovo, Yugoslavia, until the Serbs and Albanians started fighting. They were forced to leave their home in the middle of the night, and decided to leave and go to Canada. At the Greenwood Base in Nova Scotia, Mishka received an immigration card—he was the first refugee cat on Canadian soil!

Valiant

Buena Vista/Walt Disney DVD

Valiant is a comedy-adventure tale of a brave, but undersized hopeful young wood pigeon named Valiant who dreams of joining the Royal Homing Pigeon Service (RHPS) and serving during the Second World War.

WORD FIND

Look for these words about animals and remembrance. You can find them written backward, forward, or diagonally. Good luck!

- | | | |
|--------|----------|---------|
| Peace | Hero | Mascots |
| Brave | Remember | Values |
| Medal | Animals | Freedom |
| Poppy | Listen | Friends |
| Honour | Thank | Courage |

N C W K N A H T L G
 E S O S E U L A V S
 T L X U N V D V T N
 S A R O R E H O R C
 I M N U M A C L E R
 L I F F O S G F M F
 T N Q Z A N R E E R
 V A J M P I O J M E
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 B S P E A C E K Y M

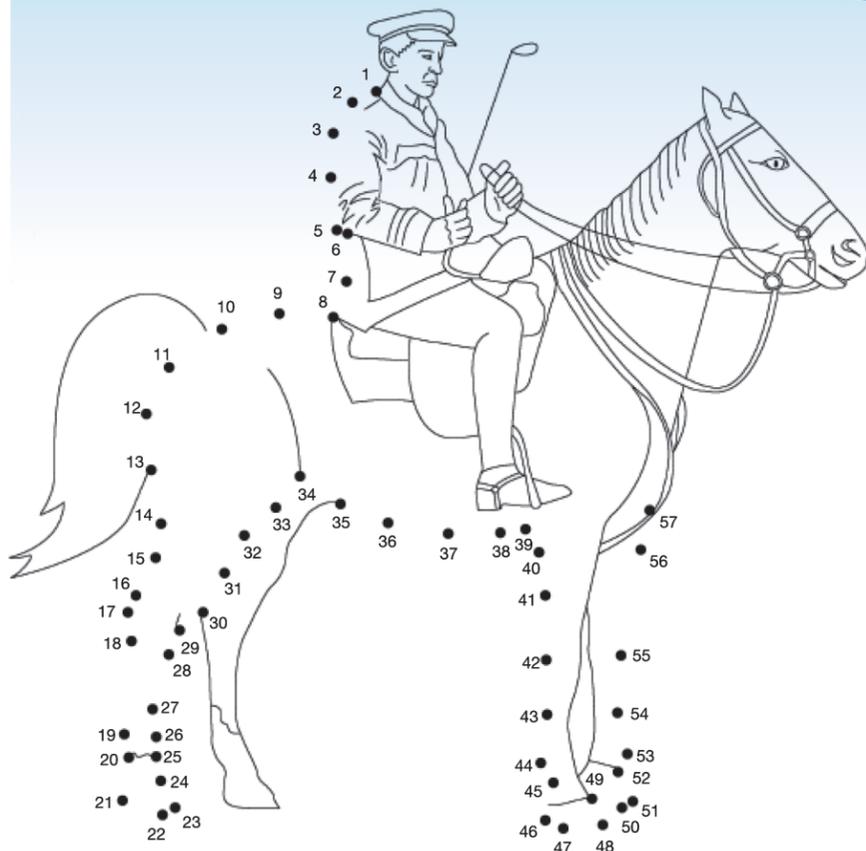
CAN YOU CRACK THE CODE?

Pigeons carried secret messages that were sometimes written in code. The enemy had to know the code or else the message meant nothing to them.

Here's a secret message that would fill the small piece of paper inside the capsule on a messenger pigeon's leg. Can you read the message? (Clue: Each number matches a letter in the alphabet.)

18 5 13 5 13 2 5 18
 20 8 5
 1 14 9 13 1 12 19

BONFIRE & JOHN M'CRAE DOT-TO-DOT



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