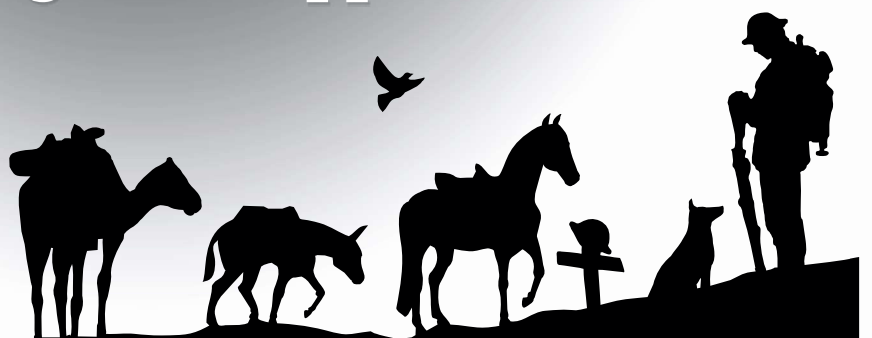
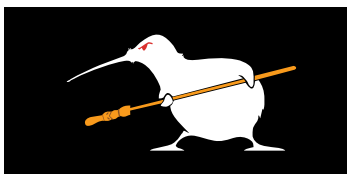


New Zealand War Animals



By Nigel Allsopp





The attack of the Otago Mounted Rifles at Messines, 7 June 1917, painted by Captain Matt Gauldie, official New Zealand Army Artist, in 2010. These horsemen advanced nearly a kilometre ahead of the infantry on Messines Ridge, capturing several German prisoners and two field guns. Casualties for troopers and horses were similar: seven or eight killed and more than 30 wounded.

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New Zealand War Animals



Throughout history, in war and in peace time, animals and mankind have worked alongside each other. As beasts of burden, messengers, protectors, mascots, and friends, these war animals have demonstrated true valour and an enduring partnership with humans. The bond is unbreakable, their sacrifice great – we should honour the animals of war.

Currently within the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) the use of animals in fact is on the increase as opposed to decline. This is primarily due to military working dogs and specialist explosive search dogs being used to combat terrorist activities in both homeland defence and international operations.

A variety of species such as the dog, mule, donkey and pigeon have made an important and vital contribution to the armed forces' activities. Simply put to war could have been contemplated without their use.

*"The greatness of a nation and its moral progress
can be judged by the way its animals are treated."
Mahatma Gandhi*

Acknowledgement

I have made a full list of persons that have contributed to this book either directly or indirectly via their previous writings on various parts of this subject. These names, institutions, thesis and articles are listed in the Bibliography section. There are several outstanding books by other New Zealand writers that I would encourage you to read, these specialize on singular subjects, whilst this book is aimed at educating and making people aware of the role of animals in this Nations history.

The War Horse

New Zealand's history and culture are closely intertwined with the horse, as an agricultural, transport, military and sporting animal. The first horses were brought to New Zealand by the Rev. Samuel Marsden, they arrived in Rangihoua, in the Bay of Islands, in December 1814. One of the great sources of pride for colonial immigrants was the ability to own their own land, and their own horse! As such by 1900 there were more than 260,000 horses in New Zealand¹.

The New Zealand wars

Horses were used by both sides fighting in the conflicts of the 19th century. During the first four months of 1864, 1,000 horses were shipped to New Zealand for use by the New Zealand colonial defence force. Horses had a major role to play in the army. Not only were they used by cavalry riders, but also moved cannons, ammunition, and other army equipment such as tents and cooking gear. An early watercolour shows the Royal Artillery camp at Waitatara, near Whanganui, in 1864.

Maori prophet and military leader Te Kooti Arikirangi Te Turuki and his men rode horses, and in the late 1860s captured many of their enemies' mounts. When Te Kooti was defeated and fled, the horses were abandoned. It is possible that these, and other abandoned and escaped horses, are the origin of the wild horses found in the Kaimanawa Mountains². Apart from the horses around 700 Bullocks (as draught animals) were used as part of the military transport system.

Anglo-Boer War

The New Zealand horse was crucial to the way the army conducted warfare in South Africa due to the operational conditions such as Geography, terrain and climate. Wars were now fought across large regions with numerous fronts, requiring the need for mobility within them, which secured the horse's military prominence. About 8,000 horses were sent to the South African War (1899–1902) also known as the Boer War, the first overseas conflict involving New Zealand soldiers³. Ten contingents of New Zealand Mounted Rifle Volunteers (NZMR) totalling 6,495 men with 8,000 horses were shipped from New Zealand⁴. They served in South Africa between 1899 and 1903 (the term of service for men was one year), the largest proportion of representation from any British Colony.

New Zealanders earned a reputation for expert horsemanship, strength, speed, resourcefulness and stamina.

Losses in men and equine were proportionally high, 228 men died and 166 were wounded. The hurried mobilisation in 1899 of the nation's mounted expeditionary forces for the Anglo-Boer War caused a hurried collection of horses for service in the African environment. These horses upon arrival were expected to increase their workload on reduced and unfamiliar rations in a seasonally opposite climate. Had British military authorities paid proper attention to remount experts at the time, South African-bred horses would have been used in the early stages of the war, allowing ample time for foreign horses to be weaned onto reduced rations and heavier workloads before embarking on the tough sea journey. As it was New Zealand animals arriving in southern Africa were unfit for even the lightest workload, let alone military action.

Transportation conditions were arduous for the horses during the Anglo-Boer War. Their diet was small amounts of grain while the wooden decks became slippery with faeces, although these conditions did not directly produce large numbers of deaths onboard ships, the trip took a devastating toll on the condition of previously healthy animals. Through inactivity, exhaustion, starvation, dehydration and disease many disembarked at their destination completely unfit for military action. This had tragic consequences for the entire military campaign.

In South Africa horses experienced starvation as many went for extended periods on below the minimum required daily ration. This led to the breakdown of thousands of horses every month. The precise numbers of New Zealand horses that survived the conflicts is not clear, given they fought in for Imperial British forces. The horse mortality rate was 66 per cent in the Anglo-Boer War. After the war, it was thought to be too difficult to transport the battle-weary animals home, so they were sold to local farmers and foreign armies.

The Anglo-Boer War was one of the most devastating horse massacres in global history, with a total wastage of more than 400,000 horses in little more than three years. At the end of the Anglo-Boer War the precise numbers of New Zealand horses that survived the conflicts, as opposed to being shot, is not clear, due to figures being combined with British and Australian forces. However, an estimated 131,700 military horses survived, with an extra 28,700 sick horses in remount and debility camps. Between June 1, 1902, and February 28, 1903, 120,500 horses, 61,400 mules and 9000 donkeys were sold to local farmers and foreign armies. During this period, 9500 horses were destroyed due to outbreaks of glanders, mange and lymphangitis⁵.

At its peak in 1911 the horse population in NZ reached 404,284 – about one horse for every three people. At a time when horses were the mainstay of NZ farming, over 10,000 were commissioned by the Government to equip the NZ Expeditionary Force (NZEF). Stock inspectors from the Department of Agriculture bought 9347 horses, paying an average 17 pounds (\$34) for riding horses and 24 pounds (\$48) for transport and artillery horses. More than half of the horses were ridden by mounted troops and officers. Nearly 4,000 were draught, heavy draught or packhorses used for artillery and transport purposes. The government had no great difficulty securing this many horses of suitable quality. Nearly all these horses went overseas, and only around 3% of them died on route thanks to the skills of the NZ veterinarians. Horses served where New Zealanders served: in German Samoa, at Gallipoli, in the Middle East and on the Western Front⁶.

¹ Carolyn Jean Mincham *A social and cultural history of New Zealand Horse* 2008.

² Unlike countries such as Australia (the Australian Stock Horse), New Zealand has not developed an official national breed. Kaimanawa wild horses are not a genetically unique population. They have roughly the same genetic makeup as domesticated horses, although they are of mixed breed with diverse genetic influences. They have most in common with the Thoroughbred and Station Hack breeds.

³ The horses had to meet some stringent standards. First, they had to be between four and seven years of age. Their height was restricted to be between 14.2 and 15.2 hands. Greys, duns or light chestnut horses were not permitted, and geldings were preferred over mares.

⁴ The first New Zealand contingent would depart Wellington aboard the SS *Waiwera* on the 21st October 1899.

⁵ "A History of New Zealand's Military Horse: The experience of the horse in the Anglo-Boer War and World War One" - A thesis by Marcus Wilson.

⁶ Nine thousand three hundred and forty-seven horses were purchased, at an average price of £17-1-10 for remounts (5,097) and £24-10-0 for artillery horses (4,250). Every horse, like every other item of army equipment had to have a number. A "N Z" was branded on one fore-hoof and the horses' military number was branded on the other.



During the early years on the Western Front the cavalry charge was obsolete, however the horses remained a vital part of logistics. With no roads and thick winter mud even teams of horses would frequently get stuck.



When horses could not pull heavy items in New Zealand's bushland the army used bullocks to do the job. Used by civilians hauling trees and lumber these animals were ideal to pull artillery and heavy supply wagons.

WWI

The WWI New Zealand Expeditionary Force (NZEF) Commander, Major General Godley appointed Colonel Andrew Russell, a Hawkes Bay farmer with formal British military training to command the New Zealanders. He had started his leadership at Gallipoli commanding the Mounted Rifles and must be rated as one of New Zealand's finest soldiers. Several references and documentaries refer to him as saving his troops from unnecessary wastage. Even relatively small in numbers, the war in the Middle East could not have been won without the Kiwis. When the main body of the NZEF sailed from New Zealand in October 1914, a quarter of its men (1,940) and more than half of its horses (2,032) belonged to the NZMR Brigade. The brigade was arranged in three regiments (the Auckland, Wellington and Canterbury mounted rifles regiments, each of 549 men and 608 horses) with medical, engineering and support units. Each regiment contained three squadrons of 158 men and a mounted machine gun section⁷.



The Mounted brigade upon arrival in Egypt were assigned to form the New Zealand and Australian Division, however its first active role would be dismounted during the Gallipoli Campaign several months later. Like the Australian horsemen, the men of the New Zealand Mounted Rifles Brigade served as infantry on Gallipoli after landing in May 1915. Their riding horses remained at Zeitoun Camp in Egypt.

Like the Australians the New Zealanders fought with great distinction during this campaign and are the subject of many fine books.

When it came to the evacuation the Mounted Rifles were used as the rear guard as all other forces withdrew, amazing they did not lose a single man during this phase.

During the campaign 4,000 men served with the brigade and almost fifty per cent of them became casualties, 727 dead and 1,239 wounded.

So, seven months later after saying farewell to their horses, after the evacuation from Gallipoli, the brigade returned to Egypt, and in 1916, they were reunited with them becoming part of the ANZAC Mounted Division. They would fight on horseback all across the desert known as the Sinai and Palestine campaign taking part in clearing the Turks and Germans from Egypt.

During the next two years, along with other forces, they drove the Turkish forces out of Palestine. Following the successful conclusion of this campaign in 1918, the brigade played a small part in quelling the Egyptian Revolution before being disbanded in June 1919.

Although the New Zealand contribution to Allenby's great army of 140,000 fighting men numbered just over 2,000 men, (they were outnumbered by Australian Light Horse regiments by more than five to one) they had a fine reputation. The NZ mounted riflemen punched well above their weight, as New Zealanders often do in times of war. They performed consistently well, and they deserved the praise given to them.

In Egypt, General Murray considered the Anzac Mounted Division to be the best force under his command. Lord Allenby wrote in 1926 that none of the troops he commanded during the war were better than the New Zealand mounted riflemen.

The Anzacs were always referred to by the Turkish soldiers as 'devils on horses', the reason for this being that they never knew where they would strike next. The Turks' reconnaissance planes would report no movement at enemy camps at sundown, yet by daybreak the Anzacs would be attacking position twenty miles away from their base, which the Turks had never thought possible. Amongst the men the Turks were talking about, were the members of the New Zealand Mounted Rifles (NZMR) Brigade.

The Sinai

Mobilisation for World War I was initially little different to that of 15 years earlier for the Anglo-Boer war. The expeditionary force received earlier notice from the British War Office, but still struggled to equip sufficient numbers of appropriate military horses. The desert corps had the good fortune of the Dardanelles campaign, (Australian Troops fought on foot as Infantry), to allow their mounts close to two years for acclimatisation in Egypt. Authorities were fortunate as if the mounted force had been required immediately upon arrival, the state of the horses throughout the campaign could have mirrored the Anglo-Boer War.

The New Zealand Brigade had a long and justly earned reputation among the allied mounted troops of being the finest horse-masters in the Egyptan Expeditionary Force, a reputation which they maintained until the end of the war. To the farriers and to Major J. Stafford, D.S.O. the Brigade Veterinary Officer, the Brigade owes more than can ever be told. On June 17th, a report was sent in to Divisional Headquarters showing the numbers of "original" horses still with the regiments. These original horses were horses from Australia or New Zealand and which crossed the Canal in April 1916, with the brigades⁸.

The return is as follows:

"1st L. H. Brigade, 671; 2nd L.H. Brigade, 742: N.Z.M.R. Brigade, 1056. All brigades had suffered much the same. The brigadiers concurred in that the ideal horse should be from 15 to 15.3 and as near 15 hands as possible and should be stout and cobby and if possible with plenty of blood."

(Excerpt from "The New Zealanders in Sinai and Palestine" Powles).



The New Zealand Mounted Rifles Brigade was raised, in 1914, as part of the NZEF, it was one of the first New Zealand units to sail for service overseas. They suffered 821 battle casualties with 2,113 men wounded with an estimated 1,500 horses also being casualties.

⁷ Colonel (Rtd) R.J. SEYMOUR, MBE, JP Patron New Zealand Military Historical Society (Inc) is Patron of the New Zealand Military Historical Society (Inc), and former director of the National Army Museum at Waiouru.

⁸ <https://nzhistory.govt.nz/war/nz-first-world-war-horses/sinai-and-palestine>

The English bred sire "Musket" arrived in New Zealand in 1866, and influenced the bloodstock of half the world. Bred with other bloodlines imported from America, England, Argentina and Germany and raised in the ideal climate of New Zealand's south pacific temperate and well-watered grasslands, the New Zealand thoroughbred was to be proved a line of champion stayers. Musket's progeny included such names as Carbine who in his day was the greatest horse in the world, and when he was purchased by the Duke of Cumberland, for his English stud, he dominated the world bloodstock scene for generations. His descendants were all Derby winners and his blood line can still to be traced today in winning lines everywhere. From such big robust horses came the mounts of New Zealand's Mounted Riflemen. Proof that thoroughbred blood lines had filtered down to the Troopers mounts came, when after three years in the arid lands in the Middle East at war's end, these horses won trophy after trophy⁹. Winning Egypt at race meetings against all comers, including mounts from other allied military forces.

This article from the Auckland Star (1 February 1916), describes the purchasing of horses in Waikato during the First World War. The horses had to be between five and 10 years old; thoroughbreds were preferred, and as few mares as possible were bought. At the beginning of the war the British Army owned 25,000 horses. This was not considered enough and within a short period a further 165,000 were purchased from several countries including New Zealand.

Similar to Australian mounts, kiwi horses suffered much the same fate at the end of WWI. The troopers came home without their faithful horses. One quarter of the 6,265 horses sent overseas to serve with the brigade became casualties during the war, including 370 which were killed by enemy bombs and artillery fire. New Zealand's quarantine regulations prohibited the return of horses from the Middle East, so most of the surviving horses were passed on to British Army garrison units at the end of the war. A few older animals were sold to local Egyptians or Arabs, or shot. The situation was slightly more promising for the New Zealand Division's horses in France. They were similarly pooled with other British army horses and then killed, sold or retained. But the odds were far better around 100,000 of the British army's nearly 400,000 horses in France were eventually repatriated to England. Among them were four horses originally from New Zealand.

The patient endurance of toil and pain by the horses was a constant source of wonder to the men, and made almost a human bond between horse and rider.

The Kiwis rode New Zealand horses almost exclusively, and they were well served by them. An efficient remount and veterinary service maintained the horses in good fighting condition throughout the war, although remounts stopped coming from New Zealand in late 1916. New Zealand's horses gained a reputation for toughness and endurance that was second to none.

At least once, New Zealand horses went 72 hours without water, and they regularly had to put up with very poor rations. The horsemanship of the New Zealanders had to be high to preserve the horses under these conditions. The men got used to the idea of having to keep their horse fit and well day after day, week after week, and the incidence of sore backs and other horse maladies was maintained at a low level throughout the war. Horses were expected to march between 40 and 90 miles (60-150km) a day. The artillery horses had to endure such conditions with 1.5 tonnes of steel in tow.

Gallipoli

It is generally accepted that horses did not serve at Gallipoli, because of the lack of space for them, the nature of the terrain and the shortage of water. However, a limited number of ANZAC horses, including a small amount of New Zealand horses took part in the campaign.

One NZ horse in particular is photographed delivering messages along the beach front to various headquarter elements.

One horse called Finnigan, a Royal New Zealand Artillery horse, served at Gallipoli and on the Western Front. He is said to have been wounded twice at Anzac Cove. When the artillery moved to France he was wounded in action on another two occasions. Finnigan died during the Battle of the Somme after stepping on an unexploded bomb on the road near Flers. The artillery retained some horses at Gallipoli, but heavy equipment such as field guns had to be manhandled up steep slopes. When the 5th Battery landed at Gallipoli during the August 1915 offensive, it was with all its horses.

The occupation of territory to the north of the Anzac forces' original position allowed more heavy guns – and the horses needed to move them – to be employed. But by the time of the evacuation in December 1915, all except three of the gun teams had been sent back to Egypt. The remaining horses were subsequently evacuated with the men and their guns. However, at the end of the war would finally see Kiwi horses at Gallipoli. The Canterbury Mounted Rifle regiment left Egypt on HMT *Huntscastle* on 28 November 1918 and landed on Gallipoli on 6th December. The duties of the CMR and the 7th Australian Light Horse Regiment were to tend graves at Anzac Cove and monitor Ottoman compliance with the terms of the armistice. The CMR took with them around 80 'animals' for riding and transport purposes. It is unclear how many of these had originally come from New Zealand, but many 'original' horses had survived the campaigns in the Middle East in which the CMR had served¹⁰.

MORE WAR HORSE BOUGHT.

WAIKATO'S BIG CONTRIBUTION.

(By Telegraph.- Own Correspondent)

HAMILTON, this day.

Since the war broke out no less than 1,500 horses have been purchased by the military in the Waikato. To-day a further 120 were railed the Upper Hutt. This is probably the largest number purchased in any one district of the Dominion. Experience has proved that the animal which can claim a good deal of the thoroughbred in his make-up suits military purposes best, the horse with too much of the trotting strain not answering requirements where a heavy and continued strain is demanded. The leading percentage of rejects was traced to bad feet. No animal under five ears was considered, the maximum being marked down at 10. In order not to deplete the breeding stock as few mares as possible were bought. There was a temporary cessation of buying after the first six months owing to the campaign in Gallipoli precluding the use of horses to any extent; but it is now recommenced, and local Government veterinarians are scouring the district for more.



⁹ This article from the Auckland Star (1 February 1916), describes the purchasing of horses in Waikato during the First World War. The horses had to be between five and 10 years old; thoroughbreds were preferred, and as few mares as possible were bought. At the beginning of the war the British Army owned 25,000 horses. This was not considered enough and within a short period a further 165,000 were purchased from several countries including New Zealand.

¹⁰ <https://nzhistory.govt.nz/war/nz-first-world-war-horses/end-of-the-war>

Samoa

A total of 141 New Zealand horses were transported to Samoa rather than Egypt. Of these, 25 were dispatched with the Samoa Advance Party of the New Zealand Expeditionary Force in August 1914. Most of the rest were sent in the second half of 1915 to support the Samoan Relief Force which had taken over from the Advance Party in March. The provision of three additional horses (and bicycles) reportedly 'greatly increased' the mobility of the garrison force. Another 20 horses were dispatched in November 1916 after some of the horses already sent proved unsuitable or were impregnated by local stallions while on patrol.

The horses sent to Samoa from New Zealand were all described as 'riding' horses but they appear to have been used for a wide range of tasks. Most served as mounts for troops and officers. Others were used to pull wheeled vehicles such as trucks, wagons, the nurses' gig and a meat van. A few became pack horses for the Machine Gun Section. After the end of the war the horses sent from New Zealand to German Samoa remained with the garrison force until it departed in early 1920. This force was replaced by a smaller constabulary force from New Zealand which included some mounted police. The 90-odd remaining horses were handed over to this incoming force. But they were in poor shape and proved to be of limited use, so many were sold locally. By time the force was disbanded in late 1920 and responsibility for the horses fell to the Samoan administration, few remained in service¹¹.

The Western Front

In April 1916, more than 3,000 animals were sent from Egypt to France with the New Zealand Division. Several thousand of the New Zealand forces' horses remained in the Middle East. These animals were assigned to the NZMR Brigade, which had been separated from the rest of the New Zealand forces to form part of a new Anzac Mounted Division which also contained Australian Light Horse brigades and Royal Horse Artillery batteries. Originally the majority of the riding horses transported from New Zealand was assigned to the Auckland, Wellington and Canterbury mounted rifles regiments, which remained in the Middle East as part of the new Anzac Mounted Division. But riding horses were also assigned in smaller numbers to the units which went to France. A significant number were assigned to the Otago Mounted Rifles Regiment, which was reduced to a squadron in March 1916 and reorganized as the Divisional Mounted Troops. In *The troopers' tale*, historian Christopher Pugsley noted that the OMR 'brought over from Egypt a large number of its horses, over and above its requirements in France'. Most of New Zealand's draught, heavy draught and packhorses were assigned to units that went to France, especially the infantry and artillery.

A number of horses became sick with 'Tona', which was described by a member of the garrison force as 'a native disease which forms on the feet in the shape of a large sore which is very unsightly and causes the horse to be laid up on the sick lines'. Throughout the war there was always at least one horse out of action suffering from Tona. Like the Australians being mounted infantry, the NZ brigade was expected to ride to the site of the battle, then dismount and fight on foot, just like normal infantry.

To be a Mounted Rifleman was not easy, the training program included eight weeks of dismounted drill, two weeks of shooting, eight weeks of mounted drill and lectures on sanitation, military law and discipline, animal management and stable duties. All mounted reinforcements had to pass compulsory riding tests before being cleared to go overseas. Before joining the rest of the New Zealand Division, the horses from the artillery, transport and other sections, with their horses went via the remount depots. At remount depots they exchanged unfit horses for enough fit ones to bring the units up to establishment. They replenished their equipment at the base depots, guns and wheeled vehicles having been left behind in Egypt (with the exception of the artillery's telephone carts). While the artillery and their horses went to depots at the port of Le Havre, most transport sections and their horses went to Abbeville.

The New Zealand horses like all other horses at the front must have been terrified. One day working on a farm or pulling a milk float the next standing in deep mud, rain or snow chilling it to the bone, while explosions louder than any thunder it had ever heard filled the sky, itself blacked out by smoke. Then came the sight and smell of death. Lieutenant Dennis Wheatley described an aerial bombing attack on the Western Front in December 1915.

When the bombs had ceased falling we went over to see what damage had been done. I saw my first dead man twisted up beneath a wagon where he had evidently tried to take shelter; but we had not sustained many human casualties. The horses were another matter. They were dead ones lying all over the place and score of others were floundering and screaming with broken legs, terrible neck wounds or their entrails hanging out. We went back for our pistols and spent the next hour putting the poor, seriously injured brutes out of their misery by shooting them through the head. To do this we had to wade ankle deep through blood and guts. That night we lost over 100 horses.

In another incident the resulting carnage is described in *The Wellington Regiment* (pp. 204–5). Bombs were dropped on the transport lines of the 2nd Battalion, and the First Machine-Gun Company, whose animals were together near Kortepyp. The effect was disastrous. Thirty-three horses and mules of the 2nd Battalion were either killed or had to be shot. Four other animals were wounded, including Colonel Cunningham's charger which was wounded in the chest. In addition, the 1st Machine-Gun Company lost over fifty animals. . . . The spread of the exploding bombs was very low, and the animals that were killed, mostly had their legs cut off. After the noise of the explosion, there was only the long-drawn-out groan from the unfortunate animals, and then the rattle of their chains and dull thuds as they fell. Among the horses lost, were the 2nd Battalion's two chestnut draught horses of which it was so justly proud. The scene was a distressing one, and it was some days before the chaos was cleared up.

It is unclear how many New Zealand horses were exchanged at this point or in the years that followed. References to the high quality of the New Zealand horses and the affection the men had for them suggest that the New Zealanders did their best to hold on to them.

Horses proved more useful to New Zealand forces on the Western Front than they had been at Gallipoli. Riding, draught, heavy draught and packhorses were used to varying extents for troop work, as well as artillery and transport purposes. Riding horses were used by troops and officers across the New Zealand Division on the Western Front. But the greatest numbers were utilized by the Otago Mounted Rifles. Again, in "*The troopers' tale*",

Christopher Pugsley explains that mounted troops and cavalry played a 'very limited' role on the Western Front because of the trench warfare that followed the opening battles of 1914. As at Gallipoli, the mounted men of the OMR sent to the Western Front were called upon to perform dismounted work – everything from 'repairing, draining and digging trenches' to 'salvaging artillery ammunition and the useful detritus of war'. But unlike at Gallipoli the unit retained and maintained its horses, and was sometimes called upon to perform mounted work. This included responsibilities such as 'escort duty, traffic control and small detachments for miscellaneous mundane tasks', but also elite tasks such as a forward reconnaissance role, notably at the Battle of Messines in June 1917.



¹¹ <https://nzhistory.govt.nz/war/nz-first-world-war-horses/germansamoa>

Military commanders, it seemed, had trouble adapting to modern warfare, particularly over the continued use of cavalry. Modern technology in warfare simply had advanced too far to make cavalry charges a viable offensive option resulting in thousands of horses being killed. However, all be it traditional military role was coming to an end the speed, endurance, reliability, adaptability and manoeuvrability of the horse was unmatched by any other means until well after the war. The horse was the most feasible way to manoeuvre troops at speed and also the most reliable form of swift supply transport.

Draught, heavy draught and packhorses were generally able to carry out the tasks they had been sent overseas for, such as drawing the artillery's guns, howitzers and ammunition wagons. But conditions on the ground – such as deep mud and shell holes sometimes hampered their efforts. Progress could be slow, even when larger than usual teams of horses were employed. During the Battle of the Somme in September 1916, the 10th Battery found the road to its new position in such an 'indescribable state' that even when it employed 'twenty horses to each gun' instead of the standard six-horse team, it took many hours to reach their destination.

As at Gallipoli, the artillery was at times forced by the conditions to manhandle its guns and ammunition into place. On other occasions horses were superseded by mechanical transport. During the Battle of Messines in June 1917, light rail was used to transport large amounts of ammunition to forward positions.

Conditions on the Western Front were often physically trying for the horses. Sometimes food, water or suitable shelter was in short supply. They suffered particularly in winter because of the dampness and mud. The winter of 1916-17 was said by locals to have been the worst for 40 years. Horses soon lost condition and became more susceptible to disease. Many horses were injured, wounded or killed in action. 'Very frequent and serious injuries' were caused when nails penetrated their hoofs. Nails littered roads in the war zone, particularly near dumps and ruined houses¹².

Designated as divisional cavalry during the First World War, the OMR had a different war from the other New Zealand mounted rifles regiments. At Gallipoli, an advance guard of the OMR were the first mounted riflemen to arrive at Anzac Cove, and the first New Zealand troops to land at Cape Helles. OMR troopers fought with distinction during the harrowing August offensives and the survivors were among the last to leave the peninsula at the evacuation. They were the only New Zealand mounted troops to fight on the Western Front and were part of the unique ANZAC Mounted Regiment.

- Trooper Fred Naylor, Otago Mounted Rifles.

Talk about the charge of the Light Brigade. The infantry said we were mad, and by Jove we were! We charged over barbed wire entanglements, over trenches..."

In the final months of the war, they operated as scouts ahead of the infantry to locate enemy guns, often acting as decoys to draw enemy fire. The OMR had the honour of being the first mounted troops from Australasia to arrive at the firing line in 1915, and were still in action on the morning of Armistice Day in November 1918.

Many losses also occurred during the war as units advanced to new positions, and occasionally as a result of shellfire or aerial bombing in rear areas where horses were tethered or stabled together. Given such losses, and the exchange and replacement of horses – for example, with horses and mules from North America – it is unclear how many New Zealand horses were still serving with the New Zealand Division at the end of the war. The New Zealand Division had just under 4,500 'animals' on 31 December 1918¹³.

In a similar incident in August 1917, the 2nd Battalion, The Wellington Regiment, and 1st Machine Gun Company lost many horses when their transport lines were bombed.

The resulting carnage is described in *The Wellington Regiment* (pp. 204-5):

Bombs were dropped on the transport lines of the 2nd Battalion, and the First Machine-Gun Company, whose animals were together near Kortepyp. The effect was disastrous. Thirty-three horses and mules of the 2nd Battalion were either killed or had to be shot. Four other animals were wounded, including Colonel Cunningham's charger which was wounded in the chest. In addition, the 1st Machine-Gun Company lost over fifty animals. ... The spread of the exploding bombs was very low, and the animals that were killed, mostly had their legs cut off. After the noise of the explosion, there was only the long-drawn-out groan from the unfortunate animals, and then the rattle of their chains and dull thuds as they fell. Among the horses lost were the 2nd Battalion's two chestnut draught horses which it was so justly proud. The scene was a distressing one, and it was some days before the chaos was cleared up.



Dead horses litter the ground after a German bombing raid in France, circa 1917-18.

At the end of the war, the horses serving with the New Zealanders in the Middle East were pooled with other British army horses in the Imperial Remount Depot, which initially kept the fittest. An acute shortage of transport, and quarantine restrictions related to animal diseases prevented these animals returning home. Only one New Zealand horse (Bess) serving in the Middle East made it back to New Zealand and that was because 1918 she was sent to France.

Kiwi soldiers serving in World War I saw the brutal way in which local horses were pressed into labour on farms. Many believed a quick and painless death for their loyal mounts was the best option. And so, the men who had shared years of conflict, who with their horses had witnessed carnage and faced hardship together, said their farewells to their mounts. Some found homes with kind locals, but many of the battle-worn animals were dispatched with a shot to the head.

A substantial majority were duly sold to work in the streets of the cities in Egypt, in remote market villages and worst of all in the stone quarries. However, this haunted one woman, Dorothy Brooke. 16 years later her husband was appointed as Brigadier commanding the Cavalry brigade and they returned to Egypt. Many of the war horses would be 22, with the average life of a horse being 30. Mrs Brookes could not forget the horses and one of the first things she realised upon hearing of her husband's appointment was that she must use the opportunity to discover if any of the horses were still alive, and there were many.

¹² *Actions could be costly: the Otago Mounted Rifles lost eight horses and had 32 wounded during the Battle of Messines. Frantically galloping under fire across the devastation of No Man's Land on the Western Front, the men of the Otago Mounted Rifles rode their way into New Zealand's military history at Messines in 1917 on the Western Front.*

¹³ <https://nzhistory.govt.nz/war/nz-first-world-war-horses/western-front>

Dorothy was so very shocked by what she saw that she wrote a letter to the British newspapers to obtain funding for the proposed "Old War Horse Hospital". The letter changed history and the lives of many horses. Letters poured in to her office in Egypt and within three years she was able to purchase 5000 cavalry horses still working in Egypt - with the equivalent of more than 20 000 pounds of donations from the British public. Since the opening of the Old War Horse Memorial Hospital, it is now known as the Brooke Hospital for Animals and has helped literally millions of animals and their owners. The situation was slightly more promising for the New Zealand Division's horses in France. They were similarly pooled with other British army horses and then killed, sold or retained. But the odds were far better: around 100,000 of the British army's nearly 400,000 horses in France were eventually repatriated to England.

Among them were four horses originally from New Zealand – including Bess - which were subsequently transported home in 1920. All four of the New Zealand horses that made it home belonged to officers: Beauty to the late Captain Richard Riddiford, Bess to Captain Charles Powles, Dolly to General Sir Andrew Russell, and Nigger to Lieutenant-Colonel George King.

Early in the demobilisation process Russell expressed a desire to return home 'a few' New Zealand Division horses which had originally come from New Zealand, 'owing to association over a long period of warfare'. The list subsequently provided included Beauty, Bess and Dolly, which had left the country with the Main Body of the NZEF in 1914, and King's horse, which had left in 1915 or 1916. The four horses were repatriated from France to England in March 1919 and subjected to 12 months' quarantine. They arrived back in New Zealand in July 1920. There can be no doubt that the horse became the animal that became most associated with the Great War and formed an integral part of New Zealand's war effort.

After WWI

On occasions individual New Zealand units would obtain local horses and use them in a scouting capacity over rough mountainous areas or where terrain and snow frequently immobilised trucks. In New Zealand the NZMR continued to operate troops of horsemen for training and also to mobilise a Home Guard to patrol the long New Zealand coast. As after the Great War 1914 - 1918 it was obvious that with the invention of armoured Tanks and high-performance Machine Guns the days of Mounted Riflemen and Cavalry as an attacking force were over. So many thought, in fact history showed more horses were used by Allied and Axis Forces in the Second World War than in the First.

The German Army in particular the infantry Divisions during the Second World War relied on more than 1.1 million horses for its transportation needs on a daily basis. This equating to 80% of its total transport needs. The light and mountain divisions had an even greater proportion of animals, and the cavalry divisions were naturally mainly exclusively dependent on the horse. Prior to the Second World War the British army began replacing horse regiments with armoured beginning in 1928. However British troops in the Mediterranean Theatre continued the use of horses for transport and other support purposes. These horses were locally sourced as well as imported.

One regiment, the Sherwood Foresters Infantry Regiment, whilst serving in Palestine in 1939, brought with them a thousand English horses. Two mounted cavalry regiments were already present in this region. Lack of vehicles delayed planned motorization of these troops well into 1941. By 1942 the British still employed 6,500 horses, 10,000 mules and 1,700 camels, and continued to use local mules in Sicily and Italy up to the end of that conflict.

Several New Zealand units adopting the same mode of transport when faced with this same mountainous terrain in the region. While across the globe British Chindit raiders used horses and mules to carry supplies behind enemy lines in Burma up to the end of the war.



War Pigeons

With the advantages of communication technology today, it is easy to forget that homing pigeons were often the difference between life and death for First World War service men. Said to be one of the toughest birds on the planet – voluntarily flying more than 20,000 miles a year – the birds used their natural instincts, following landmarks by aerial recognition, as well as their sense of smell, to ensure messages were safely delivered. Due to the increase in the lethality of advanced weapons systems in particular their range; meant Commanders positioned themselves miles behind the front lines. Unlike previous wars, where a Commander was able to physically view the battle as it took place, their safety only compromised by the range of an enemy's arrow or early cannon shot. Commanders in WWI however were so far back from the battle they were in effect blind. The second aspect was WWI radio technology which did not have the capability to show a map or diagram for visual analysis, whereas the pigeon or dog could deliver such an image, rolled up in a tube. It was also clear that messages must be sent in code. Thanks to the conductivity of moist soil and the primitive state of insulation technology, enemy listening stations could pick up Morse signals 4,500m from the front line as well as telephone conversations. Due to this for some time, New Zealanders either hand-delivered messages about troop movements or relied on the pigeon. Pigeons remained on standby right up to the end of the war in case technology failed¹⁴.

On the Western Front, the birds were kept in mobile lofts – either horse drawn or mounted on lorries or London buses. They would be taken to the trenches in wicker baskets when required. They had an uncanny ability to find their way back to their loft over great distances which was behind the front lines. In many cases New Zealand units were working under British and at times Australian command. It is likely New Zealand soldiers used pigeons in these mixed organizations.

Pigeons proved to be an extremely reliable way of sending messages. Such was the importance of pigeons that over 100,000 were used in the war with an astonishing success rate of 95% getting through to their destination with their message¹⁵. Pigeons were used extensively in WWI as man-made communication systems were still crude and unreliable and when field telephones could be disrupted, or once the men had advanced – or retreated – past their prepared lines of communication the pigeon came into its own.

They could be launched even during heavy bombardments and use their homing ability to return to their lofts, even if these had been moved. However, as they were trained to fly back to a known base, they could only be used to fly to the rear, rather than to take messages back to the front¹⁶.



¹⁴ "When telephone, wireless, or any other means of communication breaks down," wrote an American committee on public information, "the winged wireless' will be relied on to keep communication open between the fighting front and headquarters."

¹⁵ <https://ww100.govt.nz/pigeons-of-war>

¹⁶ Roy Ellis, *By wires to victory*, Batley Printing, Auckland, c. 1968, p. 42. <https://ww100.govt.nz/pigeons-of-war>

Yet not everyone thought them ideal, their success record is not at all one sided in the history of the Royal New Zealand Corps of Signals and Army Signalling titled *Swift and Sure* it states¹⁷.

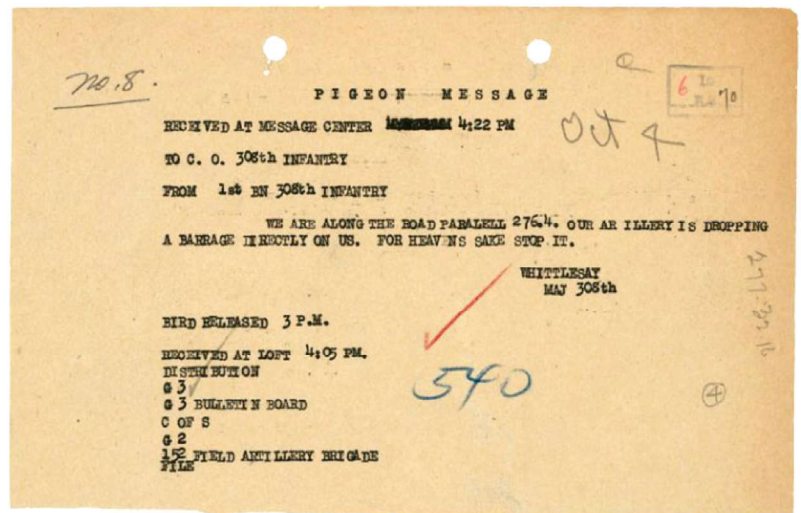
"Alternative methods of communication at the front were found wanting. Carrier pigeons were used, but birds were prone to disorientation by the noise of the battle or could be shot down before coming to roost. In the Somme fighting, all communication with an advanced Brigade was lost and the arrival of a pigeon at Divisional Headquarters was greeted with solemn expectancy. The General Staff Officer I was hardly amused to read the message 'I am fed up with carrying this bird'.

Most pigeon troops were fanciers in peace time prior to the wars and had a true love and respect for their birds. In many WWI photos you see handlers kissing and stroking their birds prior to releasing them. Towards the end of the war, New Zealanders were called upon to top up supplies of homing pigeons for the Western Front. "The New Zealand Government would be glad to receive offers of birds from fanciers in New Zealand", stated in the *Fielding Star* in mid-1918. It was "desirable that the birds should be as young as possible" as younger birds were easier to retrain.

Several hundred birds were sent from New Zealand, but it is unclear if any saw active service. Homing pigeons were also used in large-scale intelligence efforts, throughout WWI. Britain assembled special pigeon service units comprised of tens of thousands of birds. The war pigeons were considered invaluable by the British forces in WWI, so much so that they issued specific orders to protect them. If a bird was intentionally injured or killed, the perpetrator could be sent to prison for up to six months. Pigeons also served on warships and even submarines, as back up to other forms of communication, as well as in aircraft – from which they were launched in mid-air to report back on the progress of missions.



A request has been received from the imperial Government to supply a number of homing pigeons for war work on the West Front. The Defence Department has been in communication with the various societies, and it 'hoped' that the response will be good. It is desirable that the birds should be as young as possible. A similar appeal has been made in the United Kingdom and in Australia, and the fanciers there have given their birds free. It is said that over 60,000 birds were given free of cost in the United Kingdom. The New Zealand Government would be glad to receive offers of birds from fanciers in New Zealand. It should be stated whether the birds are given free or the cost per head fanciers are prepared to accept. All correspondence should be addressed to Headquarters New Zealand Military Forces. Wellington.



A copy of the original newspaper cutting from the government asking for pigeons for the war effort.

A sample of a message sent in WWI.

Finally, in recent times there has been some significant recognition of pigeons' contribution to the war effort. Of the 63 Dickin Medals – the animal equivalent of the Victoria Cross – awarded to date, 32 were given to homing pigeons. One example of the metal that pigeons possess is this story during the Meuse-Argonne offensive, in October 1918. A pigeon, which had been hatched in a dugout ten months earlier, was released at a front-line post at Grandpré with a message for headquarters at Rampont, 25 miles away. The enemy had laid down a bombardment prior to an attack and the bird had to fly through this fire, gaining altitude before he could get his bearings. The men below watched as a shell exploded close to him, the concussion sending him down. However, he regained his height and was able to continue, arriving at Rampont 25 minutes later. A bullet had ripped his breast, while bits of shrapnel had torn his body and his right leg was missing. The message tube, intact, was hanging by the ligaments of the torn leg. He was nursed back to health, but became nicknamed John Silver, after the one-legged pirate. He died in 1935, in the USA, at the age of 17. The war pigeon is credited with helping to save the lives of thousands of servicemen and influencing many key moments during war. Pigeons were still used by the home guard during WWII in New Zealand owing to lack of radios. During WWII many New Zealander Airmen served in the Royal Air Force who deployed homing pigeons or carrier pigeons on bombers as well as amphibious patrol planes in the event the planes had to ditch in the sea. Theoretically, the carrier pigeons served as a method of emergency communication to send the position of the downed plane.



Canaries

Pigeons were not the only birds used; Canaries had historically been used for centuries to detect dangerous gasses leaking into coal mines. So too did they during WWI where they acted as an early warning system for gas attacks. One of the tactics used in WWI was to tunnel under no man's land and under the enemy trenches. The tunnels were then filled with explosives and detonated just before an attack. One of the major risks in mining is suffocating from carbon dioxide or methane. The birds would sing their hearts out while the men worked, but if any gas started filling up the mine, they fell silent (*Canaries are very susceptible to lack of oxygen and so give the miners early warning of gas infiltration into the tunnel giving them time to escape*)¹⁸.

Canaries, and birds in general, are suited to this not just because they're small and portable, but because their anatomy makes them vulnerable to airborne poisons. Birds are continuously "inhaling." This is what helps them fly, which is already a tremendously taxing aerobic activity, at heights that would cause a human altitude sickness. Human lungs house many little alveoli - sacs with thin outer layers that allow oxygen to pass into the bloodstream while letting carbon dioxide out of the blood stream and back into the lungs. For birds, the oxygen goes in and the carbon dioxide out, when it travels through a structure that resembles a rib-cage-like series of tubes.

When a bird draws breath, it passes air through those tubes, absorbing the oxygen into its bloodstream while the remaining de-oxygenated air goes into two sacs in its body. It also takes in air that rushes directly to a second set of sacs. When the bird exhales, the "spent" air rushes out, along with the carbon dioxide. That second set of sacs, full of unused air, also empty. Their oxygen-rich air rushes through the tubes on its way out, letting the blood absorb yet more oxygen. Birds are getting fresh air when they inhale and when they exhale - a double dose for our single one. This makes birds great at taking in oxygen, but extraordinarily sensitive to poisons in the air. There is a memorial to Canaries and White Mice entitled *The Tunnellers Friends*, in the Scottish National War Memorial in Edinburgh Castle. Yet another bird "Lulu" was mascot of the 6th New Zealand Field Ambulance Dressing Station, during World War II in the Middle East and Italy. Destined for the pot when first captured near Ben Gardane in Southern Tunisia, Lulu's antics rapidly ingratiated her into the hearts of her captors and so it was that she became the Unit's latest recruit.



New Zealanders in the Imperial Camel Corps

This is an unofficial First World War bronze New Zealand Imperial Camel Corps hat badge. The badge features a camel facing left, with the Kings Crown on the hump and the letters 'NZ' in the centre of the body. Reflecting its origins as a wartime ad hoc unit the Imperial Camel Corps was never officially issued with cap and collar badges of its own. The New Zealand, Australian, British and Indian soldiers who served in the Camel Corps were expected to just continue wearing the badges of the units they had belonged to before joining the Camel Corps. This state of affairs proved to be an unsatisfactory one for many of the Cameleers, most of whom came to take great pride in the unique status of the Camel Corps and its successful exploits as the war went on.

So, the Cameleers took matters into their own hands and designed their own badges which they then got local Egyptian craftsmen to manufacture for them.

These badges were usually designed to reflect the national identity of the wearer (New Zealand, Australian, etc) and could also vary from company to company (the Australians in particular producing a number of different designs, as befitted their having the largest number of camel companies in the Corps)¹⁹.

The first four camel companies of the Imperial Camel Corps were formed in early 1916 to help suppress the Ottoman-backed Senussi raids on British and Egyptian outposts near the Libyan-Egyptian border. Later on, that year the Imperial Camel Corps was expanded in size and re-organized to field a complete brigade which took part in the campaigns against Ottoman Turkish forces in the Sinai Peninsula and Palestine. Two New Zealand camel companies (No's 15 and 16) were formed as part of this expansion and served with the Imperial Camel Corps Brigade²⁰.



¹⁹ <https://nzhistory.govt.nz/war/camel-corps>

²⁰ Frank Reid *The fighting Cameliers 1934*

The way the Imperial Camel Corps was intended to fight was very similar to that of the New Zealand Mounted Rifles, Australian Light Horse and British Yeomanry regiments already in the Middle East. More reinforcements for these horse-mounted units arrived in the first part of 1916 than could readily be absorbed. The British commander of the newly named 'Egyptian Expeditionary Force', General Sir Archibald Murray, took advantage of the situation by sanctioning the transfer of these excess reinforcements to strengthen and expand the Imperial Camel Corps.

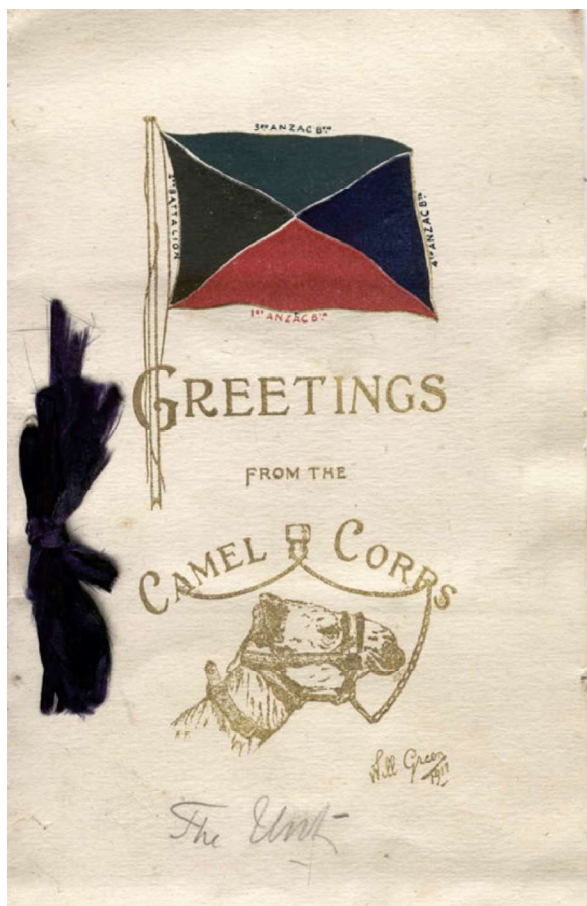
Most Cameleers eventually developed a certain level of respect, if not affection, for their camels. However, the stubborn, unpredictable and sometimes violent nature of the animals meant that camels were never held in the same high regard as that shown by the troopers of the New Zealand Mounted Rifles regiments towards their horses. At the end of the day there was no escaping the fact that horses possessed a nobility and gracefulness that the poor old ungainly camel, no matter how good-natured, could never hope to match.

The New Zealand camel companies served with the Imperial Camel Corps Brigade in Palestine until it was disbanded in June 1918. At that point, the Kiwi Cameleers were reorganised as the horse-mounted 2nd New Zealand Machine Gun Squadron. When the Imperial Camel Corps Brigade was disbanded the surplus camels were handed over to Colonel T. E. Lawrence – better known as Lawrence of Arabia to be used by the Arab Army. In all 41 New Zealanders were killed whilst serving in the Camel Corps.

At full frontline strength, the Imperial Camel Corps Brigade required approximately 3,880 camels. At first the Imperial Camel Corps used Bikanir camels supplied from India. Later, lighter Egyptian camels were used for mounts while Bikanir camels continued to be used for carrying supplies and heavy equipment. In accordance with local Egyptian practice only un-neutered male camels were used in the Imperial Camel Corps. A camel can routinely go up to five days without water whereas horses need to be watered daily. Their walking pace on average was calculated to be 4.8 km an hour. At a trot, they could make 9.5 km an hour. Each camel was expected to carry a load of at least 145 kg (the average weight of a Camelier plus his equipment and supplies).

The Cameliers often found themselves taking part in full-scale battles alongside the Expeditionary Force, however it was long-range desert patrol work that the Imperial Camel Corps was best suited. In fact, one can speculate in the next great War in the same region it was the New Zealanders that again conducted a similar role in the Long Range Patrol Group (LRPG).

Camel Corps Christmas card, 1917. On the front of the card is a red, black, green and blue colour flag representing the four battalions of the Imperial Camel Brigade - 1st (Anzac) Battalion, 2nd (Imperial) Battalion, 3rd (Anzac) Battalion, 4th (Anzac) Battalion. Inside the card is signed 'Best wishes for the New Year from R.F. Mackenzie. Jaffa 1/12/17'. Lieutenant R.F. Mackenzie served with No 16 (New Zealand) Company, and was awarded a Military Cross (MC) for distinguished services in the field during the raid on Amman in March 1918.



Kiwi soldiers load up their camels.



A New Zealand Cameleer poses for the camera with two camels, Sinai, date unknown.



KIWI Donkeys and Mules

Although the horse was the prime animal for the ANZAC Mounted Riflemen in the Deserts of the Middle East, their actions could not have been carried out without the support animals of Mules, Donkeys and Camels, animals well known for their rather obstinate natures. It required a skilled Trooper to will such irritable beasts into work.

For many years a photograph was thought to be of 202 Private (Pte) John Simpson Kirkpatrick, who enlisted as John Simpson.

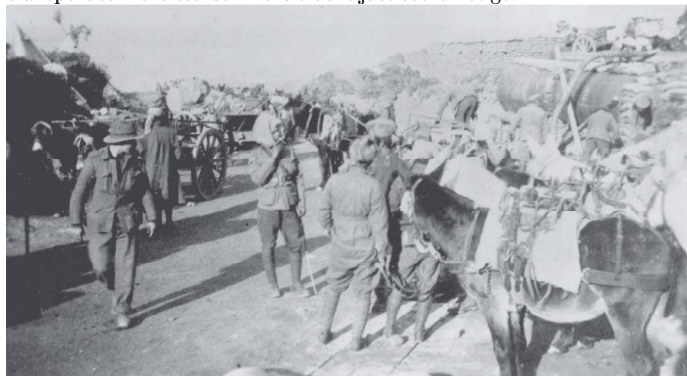
The evocative image of a stretcher bearer and his donkey at Gallipoli carrying wounded down from the front line achieved much fame, and Pte John Simpson became known as, "The Man with the Donkey". There are at least six known paintings, based on this photograph by the New Zealand artist Horace Moore-Jones, who also served on Gallipoli in the New Zealand Army, and reproductions of his paintings were widely distributed as being an excellent portrait of Simpson²². One of these paintings is held in the collection of the Australian War Memorial (Art92147).

In Australia, mention Gallipoli and people think of Simpson and his donkey. In fact, well before Simpson took up his great work members from the British Medical Corps were doing the same. When the Kiwi Henderson embarked for the Middle East with the main body of the NZEF in October 1914, upon landing at Gallipoli he saw John Simpson Kirkpatrick using a donkey to carry wounded soldiers, he began to do the same. While it is reported that he began this work after Kirkpatrick's death on 19 May 1915, he was photographed with a donkey carrying a wounded man on 12 May 1915 by Sergeant James Gardiner Jackson. According to Henderson's own account, he continued the work for about six weeks after Kirkpatrick's death.

Henderson later served in France, and on 22 October 1916 was awarded the recently created Military Medal for bravery in battle on land, with the citation "During operations on the Somme on 15th September he went out repeatedly under heavy shellfire and brought in wounded who were exposed to it. He set a fine example to other bearers".

Because of the conditions at Gallipoli motor transport and four-wheeled vehicles drawn by horses were replaced by small, manoeuvrable 'Indian mule carts' drawn by two mules. Mules and donkeys coped better with limited water and steep terrain. They transported supplies such as water and ammunition by cart and on their backs. Nearly 2000 were used in the ANZAC enclave.

On the Western Front the NZDF used locally purchased donkeys and mules to haul supplies and they used many thousands of them. Some Mules did come from Egypt to France but as replacements were needed, NZ forces were issued with equines from the British and Commonwealth remount units. None of these were ever brought back home. Some NZ units also had donkey mascots. During the Second World War, New Zealanders used animals, in particular equines when the need arose or opportunity came. For example, after the Long-Range Desert Group which was extensively manned by Kiwis moved from the desert campaign to the hills of Lebanon, it found itself needed mule transport to move stores where trucks just could not go.



Scene at Mule Gully, Anzac Cove, Gallipoli, Turkey, with Australian, New Zealand and Indian soldiers. The Red Cross hospital and a water tank are at right.

²¹ "During operations on the Somme on 15th September he went out repeatedly under heavy shellfire and brought in wounded who were exposed to it. He set a fine example to other bearers".

²² Later research has found that this photograph was taken by 3/210 Sergeant James (Jas) G. Jackson, New Zealand Expeditionary Force, and shows not Simpson, but Pte Dick Henderson.



Pte Richard Alexander (Dick) Henderson, a stretcher bearer in the New Zealand Expeditionary Force serving on Gallipoli, with a donkey assisting a wounded soldier from the front line at Anzac.

Pte Henderson survived Gallipoli and went on to serve in France where he was awarded the Military Medal in November 1916, he was promoted to Lance Corporal and eventually Corporal on 23 March 1917²¹.

Pte Henderson was very seriously gassed in October 1917 and repatriated to England where he was reported as "dangerously ill". He was declared unfit for war service and embarked for New Zealand from Liverpool on 2 February 1918



The occupation of positions in the Greek mountains created transport difficulties that had not previously confronted the British forces in the Middle East. Transport officers found themselves dealing in donkeys and mules instead of motor vehicles and men with any knowledge of the strange ways of these animals found themselves in demand. These New Zealand troops got a certain amount of light relief from the general labour of war while inducing the new transport system to function efficiently.



A NZ mule convoy brings ammunition to the guns. Photograph taken 12 October 1917, the day of the Battle of Passchendaele.



New Zealand soldiers with a light trench mortar gun on a mule-drawn cart at the time when trench mortars became a mobile arm of the Division's forces in France. Photograph taken 8 September 1918 by Henry Armytage Sanders.



Soldiers of the 1st Mule Pack Company transporting supplies along a cactus bordered hill track in Tunisia. In the foreground is R M Thompson. In line behind him are H Shaw and N Clanfield. Photograph taken 15 May 1943 by M D Elias.



A New Zealand soldier in Italy with his pack mule, Christmas morning, during WWII - Photo taken by George Kaye.



The ANZACs were quick to use local animals to assist their logistical requirements. A mix of Mules and Donkeys in this case used by New Zealanders during WWII.

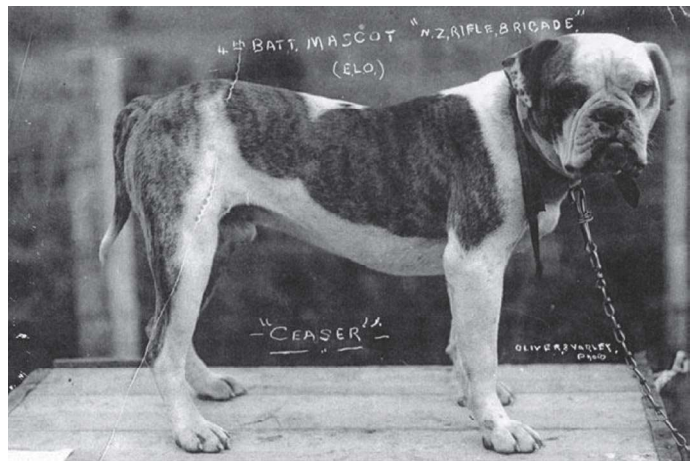
Kiwi War Dogs - ARMY

The first Military Working dog record as being used by the New Zealand Army was Caesar, A Company, 4th Battalion, New Zealand Rifle Brigade. Caesar and his handler, Rifleman Thomas Samuel Tooman (s/n 26/918) took part in the Battalion's parade up Auckland's Queen Street in 1916 before they embarked initially for Egypt on H.M.N.Z.T. 43, the 'Mokoia' which arrived in Egypt in February 1916. He was trained as a Red Cross dog in order to help rescue wounded troops.

He wore a harness which was equipped with medical supplies like bandages, water and writing materials. If a soldier was slightly injured, he could use the bandages to patch himself up and the dog would guide him back to the trenches and if unable to move but conscious, he could write of anything that might hamper the rescuers, such as enemies nearby or unexploded shells. Caesar was also trained to take a piece of a soldier's kit if he was unconscious, to bring back to show the rescue party, such as a cap or piece of torn clothing as evidence.

After intensive training, Caesar left Egypt and embarked for the Western Front. The Somme was a world away from Egypt, muddy, barbed wire scattered about and full of craters left by shells, it was difficult terrain, especially for a dog with short legs, like a bulldog! Caesar was personally responsible for locating many men who were wounded on the Somme battlefield, many of who would not have survived without the brave bulldogs' help. During one battle Caesar was killed in action and was found in No Man's Land, shot presumably by a sniper alongside a soldier who had died with his hand resting on Caesar's head. Most likely, Caesar had come across the wounded man and they had died together. His collar is now held at the Auckland War Memorial museum²³.

The New Zealand Army has utilised Military Working Dogs MWDs as part of its operational outputs for a number of years. They utilised Military Working Dogs from the British Army during the Malaysian Emergency. These were handled by soldiers from 1 Royal New Zealand Infantry Battalion and were comprised of Tracker and Infantry Patrol dogs as part of the Combat Tracking Team.



Tpr J Cory and Tracker Dog in Malaya



Explosive Detection Dogs (EDD)

The New Zealand Army had never seen the requirement to train its own MWDs or fully develop any related programmes. In 2012 it was highlighted that the risk to personnel operationally deployed in Afghanistan from Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) had become too great. So, after an absence of over 15 years the New Zealand Defence Force saw explosive detection dog teams broaden existing force protection measures, providing support to overseas operations, exercises and taking's in New Zealand once again. This means the Army operates the EDDs.

A Defence spokesman stated:

"As the Improvised Explosive Device threat has evolved, so has our need to provide broader search and detect capabilities to ensure optimum force protection for personnel. Explosive Detection Military Working Dogs are proven to save lives and are widely used by our NATO partners. They are an invaluable asset in search and detect capability. No man-made technology can effectively replicate a dog's sense of smell which is said to be a thousand times more sensitive than humans."

So, a number of options were looked at in order to reduce the capability gap. As the Royal New Zealand Air Force has relinquished the EDD capability a number of years earlier and the EDD of today is a completely different capability, it was decided to conduct a Battle Lab whilst simultaneously initiating an Urgent Operational Requirement into the development of an EDD capability for Afghanistan.

This would also be complemented by the development of a dedicated Counter Explosive Hazards team that would have EDD teams as part of the Operational Requirements.



²³ Patricia Stroud wrote a book about his life 'Caesar the ANZAC Dog' which was illustrated by Bruce Potter.

It was decided that the Royal New Zealand Engineers, Second Engineer Regiment, 2 Field Squadron would be the host unit and provide the manpower for the project. This was due to the fact that all their soldiers are searched trained and this would complement the Explosive Detection Dogs capability and enhance the Counter Explosive Hazard Team.

The initial course consisted of four soldiers and five dogs graduating on completion of a 12-week long course, which was run with assistance from the New Zealand Police Dog Training Centre and the Military Working Dog Capability Manager (an Ex Royal Army Veterinary Corps Warrant Office Class One, who had over 27 years' experience of MWD training and handling). Both the dogs and handlers underwent a robust selection process. Twelve dogs started the course, only the best five canines graduated – two German Shepherds, a Cocker Spaniel, a Labrador and a Collie Cross.

Four of the dogs were sourced from the New Zealand Police Dog Training Centre, with the remainder sourced from the Australian Customs breeding program. On completion of the course one handler, two EDDs and the Military Working Dog Capability Manager underwent Post Deployment Training and arrived in Afghanistan three weeks later, in order to embed the new capability on operation CRIB 21.

Lieutenant Colonel S Stephens Opera on CRIB 21 Commander:

"The employment of an EDD capability added significant value to Task Unit CRIB 21's outputs, Force Protection and proved the wider concept that Military Working Dogs can be employed within a Task Unit or Task Group in an expeditionary scenario. The force multiplying value that EDD provided (for both planned and more reactive events) quickly proved its value for other Task Elements committed to CRIB 21. There was an increased level of assurance for other personnel deployed that a unique 'sensor', which was highly effective, added to the other detection methods in a complimentary manner. EDD also provided a deterrence factor, particularly in the role of forward operating base protection and there was a positive morale implication of having MWD's as part of the Task Unit/Task Group."

Today's EDD is trained to detect and indicate the presence of a number of explosive odours, including commercial, military and homemade explosive mixes.

They are employed to do this in a number of operational roles including vehicle, building, areas, rummages and routes search. They use a passive indication process and are able to provide both positive and negative information concerning the presence of an explosive substance. It can work as a stand-alone asset or as part of the Explosive Hazard Clearance Team, dependent on the threat assessment. Since the initial training the unit has trained additional handlers post Battle Lab, pending its endorsement.

They have supported a number of overseas (Australia and Solomon Islands), New Zealand based Brigade and Unit Exercises. This was recently highlighted in the EDD Support to Exercise Southern KATIPO 2017 the largest Multi-National exercise ever run by the NZ Defence Force.

In addition to this they have also conducted domestic search tasks in support of NZ Police and NZ Defence Force Special Forces. Due to the hard work of the Unit, Sergeant Langman RNZE and all the handlers the EDD capability was been endorsed by NZ Defence Force in 2016 as an operational output and is

being introduced into service.

To highlight how the NZ Army EDD capability has developed in such a short period, Lieutenant Colonel Cornwall and EDD Yeardeley were placed third in the New Zealand National Explosive Detector Dog Team trials organised by the NZ Police Dog Training Section.

He was competing against three previous winners from NZ Police and Aviation Security.



LCPL Blogg and EDD Yardley at Kiwi Base Barmian Province conducting a vehicle search at the Main Camp Entry Point



Engineer Broderick and EDD Chuck on Exercise Southern KATIPO 2017

Tracker Dogs – Infantry Support Dogs (ISD)

The HQ Joint Force New Zealand, Land Component Commander gave clear direction in late 2013 for a Battle Lab to be conducted to look at the development of an NZ Army Tracker Dog (TkD) Capability in order to support, develop, and enhance 1 (NZ) Brigade, Combat Tracker Teams (CTT). This was later called an Interim Training Capacity.

The Commanding Officer, Queen Alexandra's Mounted Rifles volunteered to be the initial host unit for the Tracker Dog interim training capacity with manpower being selected from within Queen Alexandra's Mounted Rifles and Alpha Coy, 1RNZIR that were part of his units organization. As this capability was conceptually new and still relatively unknown within the NZ Defence Force, it is primarily focussed on Unit and formation commanders to demonstrate and integrate at every opportunity. The aim was to brief and demonstrate the TkDs capabilities, limitations, Standard Operating Procedures, and methods of employment in combatting and deterring the enemy in the wider battle space, especially in the Close Combat environment.

Tracker Dogs teams can track single or numerous persons via human scent, whether it be a "hot track" (*were the quarry may still be on the move*), or a "cold track" (*were the track may have aged significantly*). The aim was to complement the visual tracker as part of a CTT or utilizing the Tracker Dog team as a standalone capability. It has been highlighted that the VT has a reduced operational capability during the hours of darkness, in the urban environment and to move at speed.

This was where the Tracker Dog provided closure and enhanced the success rates of completing the mission.

During the Tracker Dog interim training capacity a number of additional attributes were highlighted that could enhance the operational effectiveness, outside of just the tracking role, these included a "Less Than Lethal" capability (*apprehension of a suspect by biting*) and enhanced situation awareness (using natural sense and technology). It was decided that the capability was now greater than tracking and was re-branded as the Infantry Support Dog in 2015 when the project was moved to 1RNZIR Reconnaissance Platoon.

The unit has concentrated the new roles highlighted and developed the respective in-fill mechanisms that would be required. Since the initial training the unit has trained additional handlers, pending its endorsement. They have supported a number of New Zealand based Brigade, Unit Exercises and NZ Defence Forces Special Forces. If it was not for Corporal K Ritchie and all the handlers, this project would not have achieved what it has in such a short period of time²⁴.



LCPL Breuer (1RNZIR) and TkD Flick



Photo courtesy of NZDF



Photo courtesy of NZDF



Photo courtesy of NZDF

Dogs and their handlers can be deployed via helicopter or light assault vehicles.

Air Force

New Zealanders like all other nations took dogs to war from their first expeditions; they also adopted mascot's in-situ. However, they were usually not official, in fact, the first government military working dog section was not formed until the mid-1960s.

Cry Havoc was the unofficial motto of the Royal New Zealand Air Force Police Dog Section, displayed on all badges and plaques of the unit. The Dog Unit was first established back in 1967 when the RNZAF first purchased the P3 Orion Aircraft from the United States. Due to the sensitive nature of the electronic equipment on board these aircraft it was stipulated that additional security measures had to be put in place to prevent unauthorised access to the aircraft. Dogs were chosen primarily for their vastly superior sense of smell, sharpness of hearing and a visual ability to detect even the smallest of movements.

The dogs could work in a variety of conditions and would reduce the manpower required for this task. Thus, the RNZAF Police Dog Unit was established and is still situated adjacent to the main gate at Base Auckland, Whenuapai Airfield. Dog handlers were initially security guards or General Service Hands (GSH). They had the first of many name and trade changes to come in the 1970s becoming the Royal New Zealand Air Force Police Dog Section a sub-unit of the Royal New Zealand Air Force Police Corps, the only Corps uniquely within the RNZAF. All candidates were qualified RNZAF Policemen in the General duties branch before becoming Dog handlers.

Candidates could also be selected from the RNZMP and Naval Regulating Branch prior to a Corps change. The Role of the Royal New Zealand Air Force Police Dog Section was to provide security to Air Force aircraft, sensitive facilities, VIPs and Tri-Service Support. The Royal New Zealand Air Force maintained the only canine unit within the New Zealand Defence Force and as such all members were capable of working in the field alongside Army Units with dog handlers receiving regular weapons and Infantry core training²⁵.

In particular close co-operation was developed between the Royal NZ Military Police (RNZMP) using RNZAF Explosive Detection Dogs (EDD) search teams and Military Working Dog (MWD) teams for Close Personnel Protection (CPP) and residential security details. Also, the NZ Infantry and New Zealand Special Air Service (NZSAS) used the dog section during Escape & Evasion training and SAS selection courses. To this end a large part of the General Police dog course was devoted to tracking in various terrains not just the type found within the confines of an Air Base.

²⁴ Alan Inkpen Military Working Dog Capability Manager – Land (MWD Cap Mgr Land Combat Capability Working Group Capability Branch HQ NZ Defence Force

²⁵ Several handlers had previously served in the Infantry and training was organized with Infantry and NZSAS cadre staff to assist in field skills.

One aspect quite unique was visual tracker training. This was taught initially by the Royal Army Vet Corps (RAVC) Instructors and became part of the dog course during the tracking phase of the dog course in particular ex-WOFF RAVC Mick Martin²⁶.

The NZ Army did use dogs under the direction of the British Army in the 1963 Malaysian Emergency. It would take nearly 40 years till they established their own unit. Some NZSAS Troopers were trained by RAVC dog instructors. These reconnaissance or hunter-killer teams of 10-men was composed of two identical sub-teams, made up of a team leader, a visual tracker, a radio operator, a cover man and a dog handler with a trained Labrador retriever. These teams took the war to the enemy wherever he was hiding. The units were also known as Combat Tracker Teams (CTTs).

In the 1980s there were several Specialist dog teams in the RNZAF, explosive detection dogs (EDD) and narcotic detection dogs (NDD). Again, it is incorrect of some NZDF sources reporting that the Army Engineers in early 2000 had the first EDDs. In fact, the RNZAF recruited WOFF Mick Martin RAVC-British Army in the late 1970s who went about transforming the RNZAF security dogs into much more. True Military working dogs in today's sense being able to conduct combat tracking, criminal work and detection work. He also developed the RNZAF dog display team. Mick who had completed several tours of duty in Northern Ireland as a bomb dog handler also trained and operated the first EDD in New Zealand, many years prior to the NZ Police.

The RNZAF EDDs were used within the RNZAF and RNZMP and were also frequently used by the Civilian Authorities to search International Airports/Aircraft and other Improvised Explosive Device (IED) emergencies around the Country. For operational and legal reasons all qualified/trained RNZAF specialist detection dogs were qualified/trained a second time by the New Zealand Police Service.

This negated any legal issues in relation to presentation of evidence in civilian courts. EDD operations, like the Australian Defence Force (ADF) were, firstly considered to be best, used by the Corps of Engineers. However, since the RNZAF unlike the ADF were at the time the only animal operators within the NZDF it was decided to place them under RNZAF control as they had all the animal husbandry expertise, care and management practices at the time (Today the Army Engineers operate the Explosive detection dog teams).

Narcotic specialist search dogs, likewise due to their Tri-Service employment, were exposed after their initial training to work aboard Naval ships, Military Aircraft and Defence facilities. These handlers worked regularly with the RNZMP and Naval Regulating Branch.

The NDD were mainly used in the Garrison Policing role and were an effective deterrent during random vehicle and barrack searches. Narcotic operations were conducted covertly (plain clothes/unmarked vehicles) usually in conjunction with Service Investigation Branch operations with Command and control directly from the Provost Marshall's Office.

As the NDD teams was located at an Air Force Base they were constantly used for passenger and cargo screening, usually tasked alongside or on behalf of the Customs Department. Again, NDD were thus trained by the New Zealand Police who also qualified all Customs Department handlers ensuring continuity of court evidence and standards.

The RNZAF Police Dog School has trained since its establishment, many other agencies, their personnel and dogs in the general duties and specialist dog roles. These include the NZ Police, Customs, Aviation Security, Corrective Services, Civil Defence and Red Cross Society (The latter two departments in the use of Search & Rescue dogs). The RNZAF Police Dog School has also trained personnel and exported trained dogs to the Armed Forces of Singapore, Fiji and the Sultan of Brunei.

RNZAF Police dogs were obtained via donations from the Public. All dogs were usually male, (the exception being a female German Shepherd Explosive detection dog in the early 90s), were around 18 months of age and pure breed German Shepherds. The Specialist search dogs were male Black Labs. RNZAF Police dogs were teamed with one handler for their entire operational life. Dogs lived at home with their handlers and retired after a minimum of seven years of operational service. If a handler on the other hand departed service prior to the dog being five years of age, it was the general practice to re-team the dog with another handler.

Over the years the Dog Unit has managed to survive many changes in its role and focus, as well as command and management. Today the dog section is part of the RNZAF Security Forces Where the Military Working Dog unit is specialization and personnel are selected for this role once they have completed at least two to three years as a Force Protection Operator²⁷.

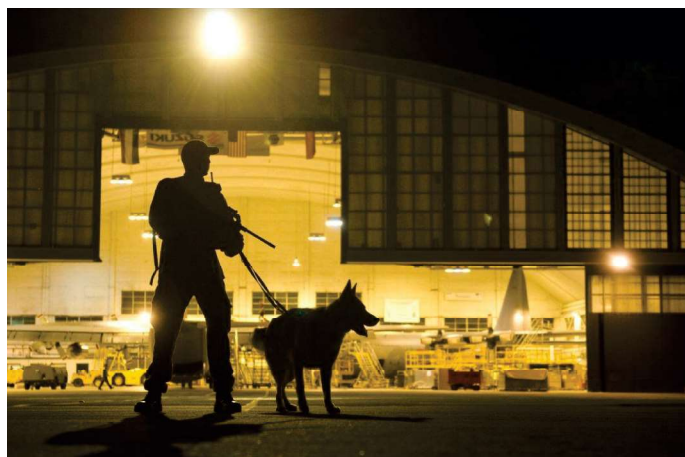
In 2003 the RNZAF deployed dogs, in support of Operation Rata, Solomon Islands. This was the first time RNZAF MWDs were deployed overseas in an operational role.

Between 2003 and 2004 a total of three dog teams were deployed on this operation, where they were to prove their worth as a force multiplier, protecting our assets on the ground. The Dog Unit maintains a focus on operational readiness to support the force element groups. Through this is also the provision of security at RNZAF Bases and deployments within New Zealand²⁸.

²⁶ Mick Martin is regarded as the father of the NZ Military Dogs, imported from the British Army RAVC in the late 1970s.

²⁷ Force Protection team, your specialised trade group contributes directly to preparing RNZAF personnel for operational duties, and protecting Air Force aviation assets, whilst both on the Military Air Base at home and deployed overseas.

²⁸ Comment SGT Pete Barrass, SNCO IC Dog Unit





The RNZAF still maintain Military Working Dogs (MWD), although dog handlers have been through several name changes the RNZAF MWDs role remains much the same as it did when formed in the 1960s. That is to guard and secure Airfields and their assets in all terrains and environments.

New Zealand Veterinary Corps

The New Zealand Veterinary Corps was formed in 1907, but, apart from a nucleus of officers - all qualified veterinary surgeons - it possessed no "establishment." On the outbreak of war immediate calls were made upon the resources of the Corps, for the purchase of military horses, the provision of veterinary officers for duty on transports, and in the training of essential personnel which had to be enrolled for the carrying out of routine duties. To do this it was necessary to utilise the services of all available qualified veterinary surgeons in New Zealand. The majority of those so enrolled subsequently received commissions in the New Zealand Veterinary Corps.

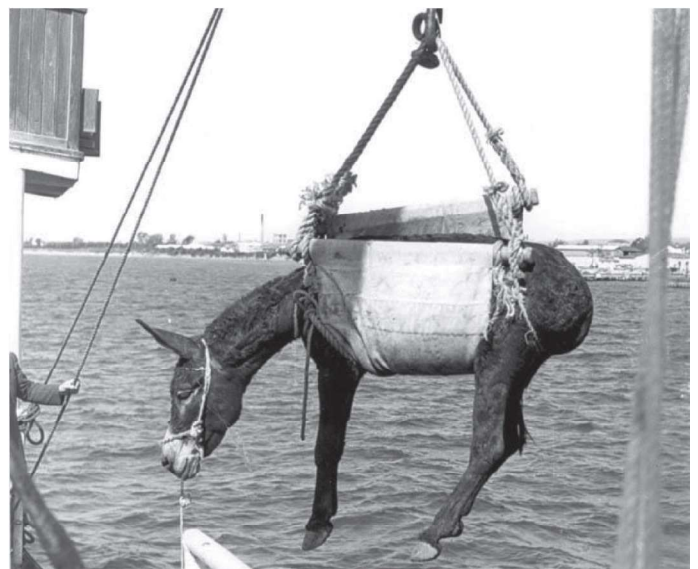
The various veterinary operations were under the administration of Dr. C. J. Reakes (later the Director-General of the Department of Agriculture) who held the appointment of Director of Veterinary Services and Remounts.

Early in the war the War Office requested the New Zealand Government to send two veterinary mobile sections and two veterinary hospital sections to Egypt. Arrangements were promptly made for this purpose. Suitable men were selected for the various duties which were to be done under veterinary officers, and were trained at a remount depot, which was established at Upper Hutt, New Zealand, where experts gave a series of lectures and demonstrations. These men eventually left with the third reinforcements. The reinforcements for subsequent veterinary units were similarly trained at Upper Hutt.

Along with the Veterinary staff when the majority of troopers were sent to Gallipoli, small crews of experienced horsemen - such as farriers and drivers - cared for the New Zealand horses at Zeitoun Camp, near Cairo, which had been established soon after the NZEF's arrival in Egypt in December 1914²⁹. Thanks to these efforts, and the distance of the camp from the action, few New Zealand horses were lost during this period. In late 1915 Colonel Charles Reakes, Director of Veterinary Services and Remounts, noted that only 1.5% of the New Zealand horses had been lost since their arrival in Egypt.

During transportation the total number of horses transported from New Zealand was 9,988, of which the loss on voyage was only 3%. Lieut.-Col. Young was in charge of the horses—a total of 3,817—which went with the Main Body, and of these, only 78, or 2% died at sea. The general average of loss with all horses shipped during the war was remarkably low for such long voyages, and it would have been some points lower if the fifth reinforcement horses, which went to India, had not suffered the comparatively high mortality rate of 7%.

The largest number of horses carried on one ship was 728 on the *Orari*, a main body transport. This low percentage of losses speaks volumes for the care and devotion of the men, whose stable duties in the tropics can easily be imagined. It is also a tribute to New Zealand's veterinary organization.

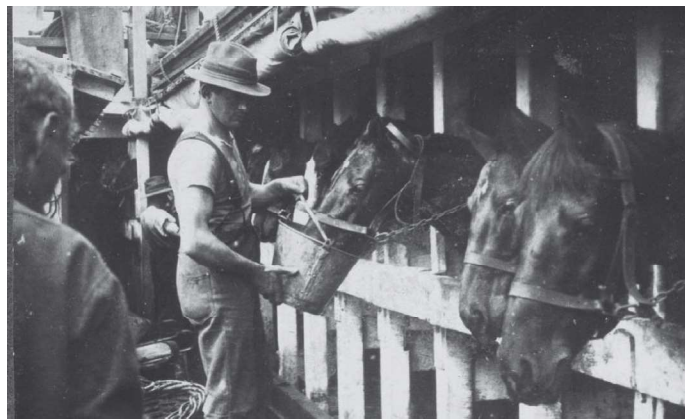


Precautions were taken at the outset to assure as much comfort as possible for the horses. At sea keen eyes were always alert for troubles such as strangles, "ship's pneumonia," colic, or other ailments. On ships where there was sufficient space the horses were exercised on decks covered with coconut matting³⁰. One description of the transport of horses comes from the diary of Clutha MacKenzie. He was at the camp at Awapuni for a month before going to Wellington, & eventually the troops left after 3 weeks at Trentham racecourse, & sailed on October 16th, a fleet of 10 transports & 2 cruisers.

Oct 22nd *"What with fog horns sounding continually, the tramping of the horses with the heavy roll, the falling of articles, nobody had much of a night's sleep".*

While on his ship men slept in cabins, on some of the transports there are horses on deck, horses in the tween-decks, the upper deck of the hold, while the men had to sleep, eat & do everything on the deck below that.

Oct 26th *"Lost our first horse on this transport last night, though several have drifted past from other vessels".*



Sgt Murphy attending horses onboard a transport ship.

At Albany, west Australia, the NZ ships joined up with Australian forces to make a convoy of 40 ships, which reached Alexandria, Egypt on December 4th 1914. The horses arrived in splendid condition & were very happy to get ashore, kicking up their heels & neighing in delight. After leading them around for some time, the horses rolled in the sand, were watered, then shipped to Cairo by train. Busy days followed & the desert lost some of its charm in the work of leading the horses across it on foot until they were strong enough to be ridden again. It was hot, dusty work.

Dec 14th *"The shoeing of the horses has just been finished & it is the first time we have ridden them. They are not quite used to strange sights & they shy at camels, mules & donkeys".*

Dec 16th *"In the afternoon had a most interesting ride down to the delta. The horses are very fit, shied at everything strange, & almost everything is strange - camels, some with regular haystacks of maize stalks on their backs & other weird loads, are their pet aversion. Water wheels driven by camels, donkeys or cattle, following around the same old circle, are objects of terror".*

In late 1915 and early 1916 the horses were reunited with their units as the latter returned from Gallipoli. In his *History of the Canterbury Mounted Rifles*, Colonel CG Powles describes how much the men anticipated seeing the horses again: It was nearly nine months since officers and men had left their horses, and there was much discussion on nearing Egypt as to whether the horses would still be at Zeitoun, and if there, whether they would be fit to be ridden. The first glance at the well-kept horse-lines, with their overhead cover for the protection from the sun, gave assurance, and great was the delight of the old hands when they found their horses in the pink of condition and good indeed it was to see the shining happy face of many an 'old hand' as he wandered down the lines and recognized his own beloved horse. Although the horses were in good condition and strong numbers, the same could not be said of the returning men. As Terry Kinloch notes in his account of the brigade's experiences in the Middle East, *Devils on horses*, on their return from Gallipoli the regiments were under strength, and 'even the unwounded evacuees were generally weak and malnourished'.

But before long the NZMR was 'fully armed, magnificently horsed, properly equipped and at full strength'.

In mid-January it left Zeitoun Camp with its horses for the Suez Canal. The transport element of other units which had remained at Zeitoun Camp, and their horses, also left for Moascar Camp near Suez during this period. In the weeks that followed the New Zealand forces were reorganized. Men and horses were shifted from mounted units into the artillery, infantry and transport components of the New Zealand Division.

The resource and efficiency of the New Zealand Veterinary Corps is well founded, it even surprised high ranking officers of the Imperial Army at the time by the low percentage of losses sustained in transportation and on active service. Even though the number of New Zealand Veterinarians was small a large number of our troops had occupations prior to the war that involved close contact with animal husbandry skills. These included 1190 Blacksmiths and farriers, 1627 Bushmen, 2392 teamsters and wagoners, 34 Drivers, 8396 Farmers and farm hands³¹. One can see due to these figures New Zealand animals were well cared for on the whole.



Of the horses the government acquired between 1914 and 1916 only a few died during transportation. Most died from disease or injury under combat conditions.



Note the horses being unloaded at ANZAC Cove, special built barges brought them close into shore from transport ships.

³⁰ C.J. Reakes, *New Zealand Veterinary Corps*, in H.T.B Drew (ed.)

³¹ Glyn Harper *Military Studies- Army Military Studies Institute- Massey University*

On the Western Front

With the organization of the New Zealand infantry into a division in February 1916, the veterinary personnel took a different formation from the one originally planned. The veterinary provision for a division comprised a mobile section with veterinary sergeants to each battery of artillery, and each infantry brigade, and certain other horsed units. These sergeants, together with the mobile section and veterinary officers to the number of six, were under the command of Lt-Col. AR Young for as long as he could be spared from New Zealand, and then the command passed to Lt-Col. HA Reid, ADVS.

This officer remained in control until the troops were finally repatriated. The mobile section acted as a collecting station for all sick and wounded horses that could not be treated satisfactorily in the unit lines. These horses were then taken to a veterinary casualty clearing station on a line of communication where they were classified. Serious cases of sickness or injury, especially those with a prospect of protracted recovery, were removed to a base hospital. There were special veterinary hospitals for certain cases, more particularly for cases of skin disease.

The veterinary personnel attached to the unit in the field had the care and treatment of all sick and injured horses. There was never enough to meet the needs so suitable assistants were drawn from the ranks, wherever possible, to help in first aid and in the routine veterinary treatment of sick or injured horses and mules. The veterinary officer also concerned himself with the inspection of forage, the sanitation of stables, and horse lines - particularly the sick lines - and it was his duty to report any irregularities to the officer commanding the unit.

Early in the war the evacuation of horses from the mobile veterinary section in the northern districts of France was largely done by barges along canals and rivers. This method was comfortable for the horses, and generally proved very successful. When barges were not available, trains had to be used. Lieut.-Col. Reid mentions as a noteworthy fact that, despite the enormous demands on the railway systems, there was very little undue delay in the carriage of sick horses to the base. Animals which were able to march went by road if the collecting station was not too far away.

A New Zealand veterinary sub-section hospital, with Major PM Edgar in command, was established at Calais, attached to No. 4 General Veterinary Hospital. Major Edgar's hospital achieved a solid reputation for efficiency and up-to-date practice.

The most trying time on the Western front for horses was during winter. In northern France the winter of 1916 was said by inhabitants to be the worst for forty years. The cold was intense, but it did not affect the horses nearly as much as the perpetual wetness and mud. This trouble, with an occasional shortage of food and material for shelter, due to the great difficulties of railway transport at the front, made the horses lose condition and exposed them to infection by disease.

Mange was extremely difficult to treat. In most of the divisional areas sulphur baths, supplied with hot water, were built for the regular dipping of horses. This dipping was done, however, more as a preventative of mange than as a cure, for it was found that, as a matter of routine, it was better to send all actual cases of mange to a special skin hospital at the base.

Horse lines and mule stables had heavy losses occasionally by shell-fire, and by the night bombing of enemy airmen. All wounds which could be treated received immediate attention. The animals were inoculated with anti-tetanic serum, the routine precaution, also, for the human subject. Usually these horse patients did exceedingly well under efficient surgical treatment, but for further service the horse - unlike the human subject - must be perfectly sound, and therefore numbers of the more seriously wounded animals had to be destroyed.

Very frequent and serious injuries were received from nails penetrating the hoofs. In the war zone where building activity was always intense, large quantities of nails became unavoidably scattered on the roads. Nails were especially plentiful near dumps, and among the ruins of shattered houses. Special steel protective plates were tried, but were not altogether successful, particularly on unevenly paved streets. The plates slipped on the stones, buckled, and bruised the sole of the foot. Generally speaking, however, the horses maintained a remarkable fitness.

To encourage the right handling of horses, shows were held regularly by divisions in which the units competed. The men took immense pains to prepare their horses for the parade. Corps shows were also arranged. These shows proved a great attraction to all lovers of horses. Troops assembled in thousands to see them. New Zealanders always won distinction, especially with their artillery horses, and also because they had some of the best cross-country horses. Throughout the Western campaign the New Zealand Veterinary Service worked under the direction of the Royal Army Veterinary Corps of which it formed part, and the New Zealand officers and men received the commendation of the Director-General of Veterinary Services in France, for their efficient co-operation.

The Mascots

When New Zealanders went to war they usually ended up adopting some type of animal as a companion- seems in our nature to love animals or at least covet their mateship during hard times. You won't find their names on any memorials, and they barely rate a mention in official histories of the First World War, but mascots, be they a donkey or a goat, monkey, assorted dogs, including Bulldogs, Spaniels, a Great Dane, a Fox Terrier and probably a few mongrels - where there on the battlefields of Gallipoli and western Europe, sometimes right in the middle of the fighting, helping to boost the soldier's moral.

Unlike Australian soldiers who took large numbers of native animals to war. One might wonder why it appears only one Kiwi (genus Apteryx)- the bird was recorded as serving as a mascot prior to the First World War. Apart from an inability to easily feed them, before the First World War New Zealanders did not refer to themselves as Kiwis, the tradition and use of a kiwi emblem came between the wars.

When HMS HOOD during a 1923-24 world tour visited Australia and New Zealand it acquired numerous mascots, wallaby, kangaroo, ring tailed possum, cockatoo and a Kiwi known as Miss Apteryx Australis. Taylor Bruce Chatham publishing London an illustrated biography page 145.



Moses, an Egyptian donkey, was the mascot of the New Zealand Army Service Corps in France. These images were taken at Louvencourt on 20 April 1918.



Members of No. 85 Squadron who Mannock mentored to greater exploits included New Zealander Malcolm C. McGregor (11 victories, fifth from left) and Americans Lawrence K. Callahan (5 victories, seventh) and Elliott White Springs (12 victories, eighth). New Zealander Donald C. Inglis (sixth from right), the last man to see Mannock alive, afterward lamented, "The bastards killed my major" (IWM Q 12050)

These mascots covered a whole range of species too vast to mention - a proverbial Noahs Ark.

Paddy

One much-loved mascot was a frisky Irish terrier called Paddy (what else?). He was unique because he lived with the Main Body of the first New Zealand Expeditionary Force and went right through, serving in Egypt, Gallipoli, France, Belgium and finally in Germany with occupation forces. Before the war Paddy belonged to Sergeant-Major Beaumont Woodhead, an English professional soldier who in 1911 was appointed instructor of a territorial unit: the 7th (Wellington West Coast) Regiment, based in Wanganui. Paddy's military career began when Woodhead presented him to the regiment as a mascot. At the outbreak of war, a company of the regiment joined a larger provincial force, the Wellington Infantry Battalion, which sailed for Egypt in October 1914.

Paddy was smuggled on board the troopship Maunganui in defiance of an order prohibiting pets. When he emerged from hiding after two days, sniffing the sea air, the men successfully argued that he should be recognized as an official mascot on the basis of his previous service. After taking part in desert training and manoeuvres in Egypt, including a skirmish at the Suez Canal, Paddy went with the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps – the legendary Anzacs – to the Dardanelles in April 1915. On the 25th, he landed with his battalion at Gallipoli under deadly fire. During the initial fighting he dashed through the scrub where the bullets were thickest, barking and scuttling, endeavouring to discover where all the nasty snappy whining noises all around him were coming from. At dusk one of the men discovered him stretched out on the ground, apparently lifeless. A growl when he was touched revealed that he was not hurt, just dog tired.

At Gallipoli, Paddy was often in the front line, taking part in several charges and on one occasion reaching the enemy trenches before the New Zealand troops, yapping down at the defending Turks, much to their astonishment. When the Wellington Battalion transferred from Anzac Cove to Cape Helles in May, Paddy went missing for a while, but was found wandering on the beach, having temporarily attached himself to a British unit. The Wellington West Coast Company took part in the famous, bloody battle of Chunuk Bair. During the Gallipoli campaign it suffered heavy casualties: 77 men out of 259 were killed and many more wounded. Paddy stood firm throughout: in fact, it was claimed that by mid-August, of the original company, only he and a trooper from Levin remained on the peninsula, and he was there until at least September.

The constant gunfire and shelling took its toll, though: he became almost deaf and any noise sent him shivering and running for cover. When the Second Wellington Battalion was formed, Paddy went with it to the Western Front in France. He gradually recovered his hearing and his nerves, but was kept safely behind the lines with the Quartermaster's Staff, living an easier life in comfortable accommodation near the supply of rations. There he continued to be a loyal friend to war-weary New Zealand troops. He also had an important ceremonial function, and was on the parade ground when Prime Minister William Massey inspected troops at Vauchelles in June 1918.

Like some other mascots, Paddy received honorary military rank. He first "enlisted" as a private, but for "good services and behaviour" at Suez was promoted to lance-corporal. By the end of the war he was a sergeant-major, and to prove it had a tailor-made red coat with blue chevron. This bit of fun at the expense of army hierarchy was also a mark of respect for his staunchness. We know about Paddy because the men he accompanied told stories about him during the war, and in some cases many years later.

Major W H (Bill) Cunningham, who commanded the Wellington West Coast Company, had a soft spot for Paddy, mentioning him in his diary on January 28, 1915 while the troops were in Egypt:

"Today fresh meat was issued. Skirt steak the cook called it. Tough as leather. Paddy got most of it. Through the killing desert marches and manoeuvres in Egypt, Paddy was always there at the head of the Company, and claimed, there is not a man in the Wellington Regiment who does not know Paddy".

Sergeant-Major Harrison Wray, who in late 1914 came into possession of the dog's pre-war collar plate bearing the inscription "Paddy, 7th Regiment anganui", prized it all his life. In a 1965 letter Wray described Paddy's war effort in tones that made it clear how important he felt it was. At that time, he offered Paddy's collar to several museums, but there was no interest. After Wray's death in 1969 a relative, realizing how much he valued this memento, sent it to the Waiouru Army Camp, and it is now in the National Army Museum.

The ultimate sign of Paddy's emotional significance was the effort made by the Wellington Regiment to get him back to New Zealand after the war. In 1919 various people, including Cunningham (by then a Lieutenant-Colonel) made appeals through the Army Department. At that time, there was a ban on importing dogs from France, Europe, Egypt and Asia, and dogs from Britain had to be quarantined for six months. Then a rabies outbreak in Britain led to a general prohibition on the import of dogs. Eventually the director general of agriculture agreed to make an exception for Paddy as long as he was kept in the Wellington Zoo. Cunningham, who had hoped to provide a home for Paddy himself, reluctantly agreed to this plan.

Why did Paddy mean so much to the men of the Wellington Regiment? For a start, they probably associated him with carefree pre-war years, before they had experienced the grim realities of battle. Later, they would have regarded him as a link with the mates who did not make it back to New Zealand. Those who did return clearly saw him as a comrade who had stood beside them through terrible times, and suffered too.



Mascot Paddy stands to attention alongside the New Zealand soldiers during the Prime Minister William Massey's inspection of troops at Vauchelles, June 1918.

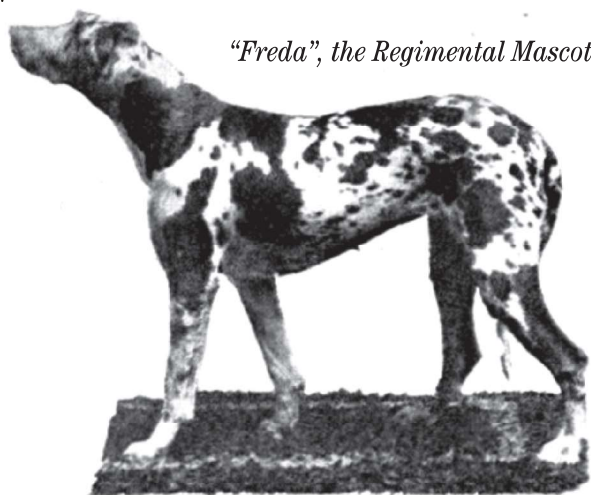
Tronson, Cunningham and Wray were all badly wounded at Gallipoli, the campaign in which Paddy was so traumatized. As Tronson remarked, Paddy "spent a most unhappy time in Gallipoli, like most of his pals". And finally, Paddy's escapades were the stuff of light-hearted anecdote, unlike so many war stories. The horror of seeing friends killed haunted many survivors. If forgetting the conflict was impossible, Paddy offered a comforting way to remember home.

Sadly, Paddy did not return to New Zealand. While the rabies scare in Britain continued into the early 1920s, he was kept first at the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals in London, and was then sent to Devon to be taken care of by Jennetta Campbell Rogers. In late 1922, when the arrangements for his repatriation were at last being made, Mrs Campbell Rogers pointed out he was getting frail and appealed against him being sent on a long sea voyage. When Paddy eventually died in Devon, in 1929, she sent his collar back to the Wellington Regiment with a touching condolence letter that summed up his contribution. It finished "*I should like the Regiment to know that Paddy's last years (he must have been quite 16 when he died a short time ago) were as happy as care and kindness could make them*". He was a well-known character, and his war service made him a heroic figure.

Freda, 5 Battalion, New Zealand Rifle Brigade

Freda, the Harlequin Great Dane mascot of the New Zealand Rifle Brigade, was stationed with the Brigade at Cannock Chase, near Brocton in England. The 5 (Reserve) Battalion had been at Brocton since September 1917, and Freda was probably acquired there. Another story is that Freda was picked up and adopted as the brigade mascot in France, accompanying the unit back to Cannock Chase in 1918.

According to a local historian, Freda provided warmth and companionship to New Zealand soldiers amidst the death and destruction of the Western Front battlefields.



"Freda", the Regimental Mascot



While this story may not be true, the men in camp faced an equally dangerous enemy when the global influenza pandemic arrived in October 1918. The Cannock Chase War Cemetery is now the resting place for about 50 members of the brigade who 'died of disease' between late October and late November 1918. Freda also died about this time and was buried at Cannock Chase. Members of the brigade erected a headstone in her memory. For the next 20 years, townspeople of nearby Brereton kept Freda's grave tidy, laying crosses and flowers each year. After it was vandalised, the Friends of Cannock Chase laid a new marble headstone in her honour in 1964. The headstone was renewed again in 2001, and the grave remains a feature of historical tours. In 2010 Freda inspired the community's Armistice Day activities. Working dogs and their owners were invited to a special service at her grave to celebrate the loyalty and service of such dogs. Freda's collar was returned to New Zealand and is held at the National Army Museum at Waiouru.

Military mascots represented the spirit of a regiment, and were believed to bring good luck. During World War I they were more than just symbols, though - they provided companionship, fun and comfort to men a long way from home. You could find them in every unit in all theatres of war during the first and Second world wars. In 1915 a London newspaper correspondent commented that you "could almost stock a menagerie with the numerous animals that are treasured as mascots by the New Zealanders and Australians". Dogs, especially, would have been reassuring to Kiwi men used to working alongside them in civilian life.

Cats at War

Perhaps of all the servicemen personal that had to undertake long periods of isolationism from family or country it has traditionally been members of the maritime forces. In addition to offering sailors this much needed companionship on long voyages, cats provided protection by ridding ships of vermin. Just like the Navy it is estimated that over 500,000 cats were used by both sides along the Western Front during the First World War. Their most common use in the trenches apart from companionship was again as a rat catcher.



Troops of the New Zealand Tunnelling Company play with their mascot, Snowy the cat, in Dainville, near Arras, France. This photograph was taken on 16 July 1918.

Major and Gunner

Two dogs and their mates, over 70 years apart, but fulfilling the same role, that of mascot, mate and camp guard.



Major:

On the left is Major, No. 1 Dog, 2 NZEF, 19 Battalion and Armoured Regiment. Major was a white bull terrier and an Australian by birth. He was given as a pup to Errol Williams, a New Zealand cadet at the Royal Military College, Duntroon. After war was declared in 1939 Captain Will formed, and eventually became adjutant of 19 (Infantry) Battalion.

Major was a dog of no rank at this stage, but when he too joined the Special Force he was registered as No. 1 New Zealand Dog. He paraded through Wellington with his unit before it left for the Middle East and listened patiently to the good wishes of Prime Minister Michael Joseph Savage at a gathering in Parliament grounds. In 1941 promoted to 2nd lieutenant, the terrier joined Wellington West Coast Company of 19 Battalion, which Williams then commanded.

Shortly after Captain Williams was killed in action. Major took the death hard and refused to be comforted. In December Major passed into the care of Captain Bill Aitken and returned to Maadi. He was promoted to lieutenant, then to captain before leaving for three months in Syria. When the Germans advanced into Egypt in June 1942 the New Zealand Division was called back and entered the line at El Alamein.



Gunner:

Kiwi troops in Afghanistan have been bowled over in more ways than one by a handsome dog who has become mascot, guard and pet at one of their patrol bases. Gunner has won the hearts of soldier's operating out of Nayak, about four hours' drive west of the main Kiwi base in Bamian.

He is like a cross between a German shepherd and a husky. Gunner has a love for snow and when snow arrives it was a sight to see. If the snow was piled he would dive into burrows made for him but most of the time he just sleeps on it regardless of the temperatures, which regularly got down to minus 30 degrees, using his kennel only when it rained.

Gunner was a great guard dog, who would kick up a fuss if anybody came around the base, and would snap at the ankles of strangers. When troops returned to base from long patrols lasting several days he would get so excited he would often knock soldiers over with joy.

Muldoon

The squadron dog was not just a feature of wartime. While based at Singapore during the 1970s, members of No. 41 Squadron RNZAF adopted a stray dog found hanging around the air base and named him 'Muldoon' after the then New Zealand Prime Minister, Robert Muldoon. He was even given his own service number and service record, which we now hold in our archive here at the Museum. It states "...in his 53 dog years of service, he has managed to refrain from biting anyone of major importance!"

He died in 1988, aged 14 years, just before the RNZAF ceased operations in Singapore. MUS090177



From WWI to present day dogs weather mascot or official are still part of the Air Force.

But dogs are not the only mascots Kiwis had. There is a long tradition of animal mascots aboard ships. For centuries many Royal Navy and merchant vessels carried cats or dogs, which not only provided companionship for the crew but also traditionally served as rat-catchers.

There were also many other breeds, monkeys, birds and goats to name a few.

Rommel the cat was a good friend of Charles Upham VC and bar. Rommel and her kittens took over Upham's sleeping bag in his tent, and he later looked after her. He described her as a wild cat who did not have a loving nature. She was a great biter and took some catching when the unit had to move camp.

Upham believed that she was eventually killed by a bomb.

Private Hunt, a parakeet, was a well-known member of 37 Battalion in the Pacific. When young he did so much walking about that his long tail became worn down to a small stump, making flight impossible. He also learned to "whisper some very wicked words, mainly in disparagement of members of the intelligence section".

Weather 100 years ago or today on the front lines of Afghanistan, mascots are still present as part of New Zealander soldiers' lives. They provide great mateship, comfort and remind us of home. It has not always been so, but we owe these animals that look after our spirits during times of danger, the respect to look after them when our troops pull out by bringing them home.

In July, after about 10 days fighting, Major was wounded in the thigh by shrapnel where he was invalided back to Maadi camp. In the mean time, Captain Aitken, 'the keeper of the dog', was taken prisoner.

In September 1942 the bull terrier was promoted Major. The regiment sailed for Italy at the end of 1943, the old dog now accompanied by his new keeper, Lieutenant Steve Whitton. Major served until his death on 17 December 1944, probably from pneumonia. He was buried with full military honours at Rimini.



The unofficial mascot of the RNZAF Police Dog Section was Rudy a terrier-cross. Rudy was rescued from the local dog pound when the remount staff were looking for any suitable German Shepherds. Rudy was used during Public Demonstrations or at School visits to the Section, as a patting dog for kids.



New Zealand's first warship, HMS Philomel formed the core of the country's naval forces during the First World War. One of its mascots a bulldog, a typically English breed pictured here with a pipe and sailor's hat, was in 1914.



Nan, an Egyptian goat, was a mascot of the New Zealand Engineers. This image was taken in France on 21 April 1918.



This group photograph shows the New Zealand Army's Special Air Service Headquarters Troop with the squadron's mascot, a goat named Angus.

The photograph was taken at Waiauru on 14 September 1955, when New Zealand's recently formed SAS squadron was training for service in the Malayan Emergency (1948–1960).



Fresh milk was obtained by NZ soldiers from local cows or milking goats situated behind the front lines.



Keeping chickens and rabbits allowed soldiers to have fresh eggs every day and extra meat. This was helpful because their usual food rations were only small.



"Lulu, mascot of the 6th New Zealand Field Ambulance Dressing Station, mounts lookout from atop her human handler, M. Batisch, near Monte Casino. Photo taken by NZ war photographer George F. Kaye, 28 March, 1944."

Lulu

The "Story of Lulu" is a factual account of a period of service of the 6th New Zealand Field Ambulance during World War II in the Middle East and Italy. Destined for the pot when first captured near Ben Gardane in Southern Tunisia, Lulu's antics rapidly ingratiated her into the hearts of her captors and so it was that she became the Unit's latest recruit/ The story is about the lighter, human interest side of men at war; the day to day happenings quite apart from the cruel, raw, bitter realities of being on active service.

The squadron pooch has always been part of military aviation culture, particularly during wartime. Dogs were adopted and kept as pets by individuals, or as mascots by the unit as a whole. They had an important role to play; at a time when the future was far from certain, these canine companions offered some comfort, solace or simple distraction from the grim realities of war. Through their unwavering devotion and boundless affection, they kept spirits high and gave many a young airman far from home a temporary link to normality and peace. Pilots often formed close relationships with their pet dogs.



In this photo, Kiwi fighter ace Flight Lieutenant John Gibson DFC poses with his four-legged friend on the wing of a Spitfire in England in early 1942. Gibson is credited with the destruction of 14½ enemy aircraft. He was shot down five times, crash-landed once and bailed out four times twice into the English Channel. PR3777b



No. 19 Squadron RNZAF pilot, Sergeant Ken Wright, teaching the squadron mascot to sit and beg, just before the end of their first tour of duty at Torokina, Bougainville, April 1944. PR3048

Mascots were found in all three of the New Zealand armed services, the Royal New Zealand Navy, the New Zealand Army and the Royal New Zealand Air Force.



Members of all three services - Petty Officer T. Maguire (navy), Staff Sergeant G. Palenski (army) and Sergeant M. B. R. Knox (air force) - are pictured enjoying a lighter moment during their service in the Vietnam War. They are holding the puppies of a stray dog adopted by the 1st New Zealand Armed Services Medical team at their hospital in Bong Son, South Vietnam. The dog, christened Kiwi, had three puppies - one for each service.



GJ Lewis with Trip, the unit pet in Tripolitania, Libya, in the Second World War. Dogs would have been reassuring to those Kiwi men who were used to working alongside them in civilian life.



A World War II Maori Battalion soldier shares some pork from the Christmas Day hangi at Maadi Camp in Egypt with a canine friend.



New Zealand soldier Norman Harry Bonsell with a full pack, and his unit's mascot Pooch, during amphibious training in the Pacific.

Memorials

One of the first war horse memorials established in New Zealand is at Birch Hill Station, this large curved stone monument officially opened in 1937 by Lt Col Milton. There are two plaques the first reads "In Memory of the Horses of the 8th Regiment N.Z.M.R. that died in the Great War 1914 - 1918. The other plaque is dedicated to the 10 men who served from Birch Hill Station.



Bess, the best known of Kiwi War horses is commemorated in a private memorial near Bulls that has become a de facto memorial to all the New Zealand horses that served during the First World War.



Bess being ridden by Sir Clutha Mackenzie who had been wounded and blinded in action at Gallipoli, was photographed mounted on BESS after both of their return to NZ after 1920. This image was used as a model for a war horse memorial that stood at Port Said.

On Armistice Day 2017 a 300kg life-size bronze horse statue created by sculptor Matt Gaudie was unveiled in Hamilton. The \$220,000 artwork is a tribute to the thousands of horses - and the troopers - of the New Zealand Mounted Rifles, including many from the Waikato, who served in campaigns of the First World War.

and before. Many VIPs attended the ceremony which also featured six Clydesdales pulling a 1.5-tonne WWI artillery gun up Memorial Drive, followed by members of the Waikato Mounted Rifles and "War Horse March" riders from the Waikato Mounted Equestrians.



When Australia was granted permission to erect a war animal memorial at Pozieres the President of the Australian war animal memorial organization Nigel Allsopp and ex-NZDF member ensured the New Zealand memorial was included.

As a result of the multi-faceted nature and conflicting interests associated with the post-war debate on appropriate ways of memorialising the war dead (humans), the contribution the animals was largely excluded from this discussions and rarely considered. Thanks primarily to the Australian War Animal Memorial Organization (AWAMO) New Zealand have several memorials both in country and overseas to honour their deeds sacrifices. In 2019 it is proposed to establish a memorial at the National Army Museum for all the armed forces mascots who have accompanied troops aiding moral and giving companionship under adverse conditions.



On Feb 24 2018, New Zealand opened its official war animal memorial at the National Army Museum, Waiouru.



Tom the War Horse

AWAMO recently helped fund a new memorial at Windwhistle, Christchurch, which is part of a concept to provide one of these statues in every allied and Commonwealth countries. This steel statue of Tom the Warhorse is a fitting reminder of the sacrifice both people and horses have made during the wars. "Tom" as the memorial is called is dedicated to the War Horse and the service horses have made to the defence of this country and worldwide. It is also in memory of Thomas Hartnell Stone 1891-1973 who served during the First World War with his trusted horse from Egypt and Palestine.

Tom was a farmer from Windwhistle who stayed behind after all the horrors of the war came to an end, mistakenly thinking this would get him home faster than returning via the UK, but he had the sad job of having to shoot all the horses left behind including his own before returning home to New Zealand.

Amongst all the hardships Tom had to endure (which included contracting Tuberculosis), was writing home to the widow of his friend William (Bill) Milliken.

His letter read

"Bill was a good soldier and most popular in the squadron, he was loved by all and we feel his loss very much. Poor Bill was caught by a bullet on his head and died instantly. He never moved after being hit, so you can rest assured that he did not suffer. I will close hoping this will find you safely."
dated 2nd November 1918.

Tom the War Horse is mounted at Waspens Falls, the family farm at the start of the public walking track where walkers can take time to think about the sacrifice both man and horse have made during the wars.

Tom is a copy of "Arthur" who is installed on the wall of the Plough Inn, Little London, UK. Arthur is named after Arthur Pearce who was from Little London and killed in action 23rd August 1914.



NIGEL BARRY ALLSOPP

AUTHOR, ANIMAL TRAINER AND BEHAVIOURAL ADVISOR

Nigel Barry Allsopp was born in the United Kingdom has served in both the New Zealand and Australian Defence Forces.

He started his Military Career as a Military Working Dog Handler in the Royal New Zealand Air Force in 1980. Within his 15 years' service he rose to the rank of Dogmaster responsible for all aspects of Canine Operations and training within the NZ Defence Force. During his service he was a Military Working Dog Handler, a specialist Narcotic detection dog handler and an Explosive detection handler at various times. He conducted several operational tours of duty including Mogadishu-Somalia and United National postings which are still classified.

He was the advisor to Special Forces on Canine operations and, including their use and evasion techniques.

He became the first Military Dog trainer to qualify as a Civilian Police dog trainer and supervisor. Nigel has trained numerous Government Agencies such as Customs, Police, Corrective Service and Federal Aviation Security in the use of specialist dogs. Nigel has also trained and supplied specialist detection dogs and Military Working Dogs to South East Asian Countries on behalf of formal Government requests whilst in the Defence Dept.

Nigel left the Military to pursue a keen interest in Wild Canine research and commenced work for the Auckland Zoo training all sorts of exotic animals (Primates, Raptors, Carnivores and Native Species) to enhance their Behavioural Enrichment. This included several years as an Elephant keeper whilst also training the zoos Sea Lions, Camels and ungulates to promote their natural behaviours.

He has written numerous articles on Behavioural Enrichment of captive animals for International Zoological Journals including the American Elephant Mangers Journal and the Australasian Zoological Journal. He has held several positions with the Australasian Zoological Society as advisor to endangered marsupials including field research, capture and reintroduction into the wild of native species.

He returned to Australia to continue his interest in wild canines by working at several zoos and wildlife parks with Manned Wolves, Timber Wolves, Dingos and African Cape Hunting Dogs. Whilst the Supervisor of Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary in Queensland, Australia, Nigel was been seconded to various Wildlife Zoos and Parks as an advisor on animal enrichment management including Captive Elephant management at Dubbo Zoo, Marine Mammal enrichment (Polar Bear and Asia Otter) at Sea World Australia, Rhino management and Dingo enrichment programmes for Steve Irwin at Australia Zoo.

Nigel has appeared on several TV Wildlife programmes such as Jack Hanna's (USA) and Steve Irwin's animal series and several International wildlife documentaries. As a lecturer he has taught at Macquarie University on Marsupial captive management and speaker at several International zoo keeping Conferences. Nigel was the Training and Assessment Officer for both the Box Hill TAFE, Victoria and Brisbane TAFE, Queensland, Australia - Zookeepers Certificate level III courses.

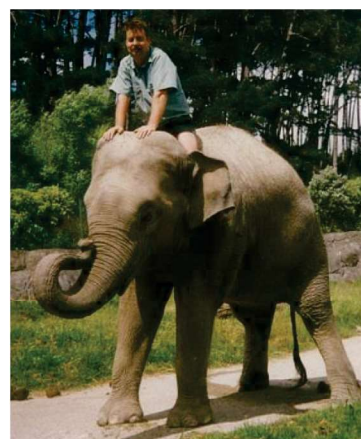
After a number of years in the Wildlife industry the lure of working with dogs again caused Nigel to join the Queensland Police Service where he is currently a Senior Constable in the QPS Dog Section both operating and training numerous Specialist Detection Dogs for various Federal and State government Departments.

Nigel continues to be a sort-after guest speaker on both Working dog and exotic animal training and management. His expertise has been recently sort, on the use of equine transport by Special Force operations in mountainous terrain.

As an International published author, Nigel has written several books on War Animals and Police Dogs including the International best sellers: Cry havoc, our 4 Legged Diggers, K9 Cops, Smoky the War Dog, The purple poppy, 100 Years of Australian War Animals and Animals in Combat. Nigel has written numerous articles on Canine training for International Law Enforcement Magazines and has been a contributing author to the prestigious British Royal Army Veterinary Corps Journal and other Military journals in the United States. He has been the Canine subject matter expert on TVs Mastermind and appeared on the TV series Who Let the Dogs Out.

Nigel is a vocal ambassador for the establishment of Animal Memorials to recognise their role and contribution in all Wars being the Founder of Australian War Animal Memorial Organization AWAMO. The aim of AWAMO is to promote the establishment of plaques or other animal memorials at Parks, RSL, and local or federal government sites.

It is a volunteer non-profit organization made up of community members from diverse backgrounds that have the like minded aim to recognize the deeds of animals during Australian military service. So far AWAMO has established 30 War Animal Memorials in Australia and Overseas.



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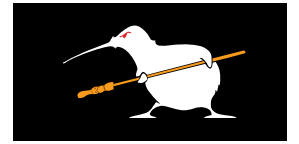
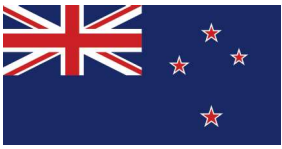
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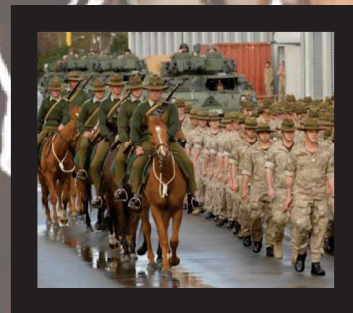
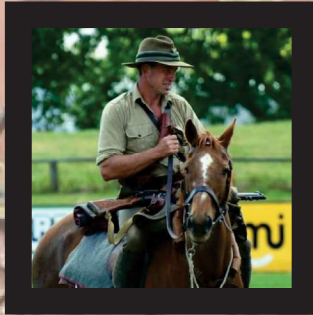
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