

## Deepening Understanding

### YR 2 Non-fiction Text

#### Animal Friends in World War One by Laura Curtis



One hundred years ago, long before your grandparents were born, there was a war. It was a war that lasted so long and was so bad that sadly many people lost their lives. Brave soldiers fought in the fields of France and Belgium and alongside them were friends who not only kept them company but they also did very important jobs. These friends were the brave animals of World War One.

### Dogs

Lots of different types of dogs lived alongside the soldiers in the war and they helped in many ways. During the war, the men lived in mud trenches which are long open tunnels dug in the ground. These were infested with rats so small dogs were used to catch them. There were no phones or computers in the war so bigger dogs were used to deliver important messages across the battlefields. These dogs were also guard dogs and would protect the soldiers. Dogs have a brilliant sense of smell so they would also run out onto the battlefields and find men who had been

hurt. Just like nowadays, the dogs became best friends to the soldiers and they gave comfort because it was very hard fighting in the war.

### Pigeons

Pigeons are very clever little birds because they always know how to return back to their home or 'loft'. During the war, they were used to send and reply to important messages. A piece of paper would be attached to their little leg and they would fly off and deliver it. There is a story where soldiers were trapped and needed to send a letter asking for help. A pigeon called Cher Ami flew 25 miles in 25 minutes and even though it was shot in the chest it still bravely carried on flying. The soldiers were rescued because their friends knew where to find them. The little pigeon was awarded a special medal.

### Horses

Horses have been used by people for hundreds of years and they were very special friends to the soldiers in the war. The war was fought in huge fields which became very muddy. The big, strong horses were used to pull heavy guns and equipment along on big carts. Injured soldiers would also be pulled to the safety of a hospital on a horse-drawn cart.

Many of these animals lived with the soldiers day and night so they became very loyal friends to the soldiers. Every day in the war, these special animals did very brave things to help the soldiers and the soldiers couldn't have fought without them. Today, people remember our brave animal friends by wearing a purple poppy. They really are animal heroes.

