



REUTERS

Animals: the hidden **victims** of war





JASPER WAS INJURED WHEN
A MINE DETONATED

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Cover photo shows a giant rat used in mine detection

This booklet is dedicated to the animals who have lost their lives in the course of human conflict. May these hidden victims of war rest in peace.

In 2004, a London monument was dedicated to the gallantry of animals in war. The script at its base reads: 'To all the animals that served and died alongside British and Allied forces in wars and campaigns throughout time. They had no choice.'

Animals used in wars are not heroes; they are victims. They do not give their lives; their lives are taken.

During human conflicts, animals have been used as messengers, for detection, scouting and rescue, as beasts of burden and on the frontline. They have been used for companionship in the trenches and continue to be subjected to warfare experiments in laboratories.



From Hannibal's historic campaign using elephants in Roman battles to 'Roborat' – rats with electrodes wired into their brains by scientists keen to harness their acute sense of smell – animals have suffered throughout history in human conflicts.

abandoned

Valued for their outstanding abilities and forced into wars not of their making, animals have often been treated as little more than disposable tools, kept alive only for as long as they are useful, and then killed or abandoned to fend for themselves.

After World War I, thousands of horses were abandoned or sold into hard labour in the countries where they were used. Dorothy Brooke, the wife of a British army general posted to Cairo in 1930, found thousands of ex-cavalry horses being used as beasts of burden. Many were old

and in the final stages of collapse. Out of her concern and compassion for these abandoned animals, the Brooke Hospital for Animals was born.

Citizens fleeing imminent attack also abandon animals. In 2003, hundreds of Israeli families hurrying to Tel Aviv airport dumped their dogs along the highway. Unable to cope, many of them died while others formed packs and, when forced to kill farmed animals in order to survive, were destroyed by the authorities.

THE BROOKE HOSPITAL FOR ANIMALS WAS FOUNDED TO CARE FOR HORSES ABANDONED AFTER WORLD WAR I



IWM HU44288



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Strong navigation instincts and incredible stamina have made dogs and pigeons popular as battlefield messengers.

messengers

In 1150 BC, the Sultan of Baghdad utilised pigeons as messengers and the practice continued until the Second World War. Despite being a small target, many thousands of messenger pigeons have been killed. Of nearly 17,000 pigeons dropped into occupied countries in World War I, for example, fewer than one in eight returned.

Cher Ami delivered twelve messages during World War I. During his last flight, he was shot through the breast, lost an eye and had his leg blown off. He died several months later as a result of his wounds.

Despite the human lives they saved, little loyalty was shown to messenger pigeons. In 1914, the head of the Belgian Pigeon Service burnt 2,500 pigeons alive, rather than risk them being captured and used by the enemy.

Although dogs cannot travel as far and as fast as pigeons, they have been similarly used as messengers.

More than 7,000 people offered their dogs to the army during World War I, while others were taken from Dogs' Homes. Training was terrifying and many who did not make the grade were euthanased or – like collies, Nell, Cosy and Surefoot, and lurchers, King and Sea – shot 'for being useless'.

Those who 'passed' faced great dangers on the battlefield. One dog – his name not recorded in history – carried messages for weeks with a bullet in his lungs and a piece of shrapnel embedded in his spine.

In Vietnam, 5,000 dogs served with the American troops. Of these, only 150 returned home; the rest were abandoned to fend for themselves when the troops moved on.

Treated as little more than expendable commodities, animals have been used in highly dangerous situations to detect gases, munitions and mines.

danger detection

During World War II, canaries and mice were sent into tunnels dug behind enemy lines to detect bad air and poison gas, and dogs were first used for mine detection. Their training, involving electric shocks, was savage but under battlefield conditions the dogs were able to locate just 50 per cent of mines, and their 'work' was terminated. Dogs continued to be used as scouts, warning of the presence of enemy patrols.

In Vietnam, dogs were used to search out Vietcong weapons caches and booby traps. In so doing they saved thousands of lives but they were not rewarded for it. Most died of injuries or heatstroke, or were abandoned and left to the enemy when the war was over.

More recently, sea lions have been trained by the United States Navy to detect underwater intruders and attach clamps to their legs. While not 'at work' they are kept captive in an enclosure where they cannot swim, play or hunt naturally.

Dolphins have been trained to search for mines on the seabed. Aside from the dangers they are exposed to when deployed, the dolphins are kept in captivity, flown and shipped around the world in 'travelling sleeves' and incarcerated in tanks aboard warships. Everything they know is taken away from them; their most basic instincts and desires are thwarted.

INJURED AFTER CROSSING GROUND
IMPREGNATED WITH MUSTARD GAS



IWM 010957



RIP SEARCHES THE RUBBLE FOLLOWING AN AIR RAID

IWM D5945

The loyalty and intelligence of dogs, along with their powerful sensory awareness, has long made them the first choice for wartime rescue and protection work.

rescue & protection

In both World Wars, dogs were used overseas to hunt for fallen soldiers and back home they were trained to dig out the dead and wounded from the rubble of bombed buildings.

Trapped in a collapsed building, Peggy rescued a baby who was suffocating under fallen plaster. She dug an air hole for the baby and waited with her until help arrived. In all, five dogs were awarded the Dickin Medal – “the animals’ Victoria Cross” for braving fire, smoke, noise and collapsing masonry to rescue people. And one dog, Beauty, detected and rescued 63 animals who were similarly trapped.

Dogs also provided protection for individuals to whom they were devoted and to entire companies. Judy – a Royal Navy gunboat mascot – was captured with her crew and interned in a POW camp. There, she saved the lives of many men who were being beaten by guards by diverting attention from them. She, too, was awarded the Dickin Medal.



Wartime beasts of burden – including elephants, oxen, mules, horses and camels – have been used to transport equipment and weapons. These animals, arguably more than any others, were viewed as little more than machines and worked to death.

beasts of burden

Camels were sacrificed in their thousands when forced to work outside their natural environments. Nineteenth century Russian military leader Mikhail Skobelev took 12,000 camels when fighting in Asia. He returned with just one. And in the Crimean War, the British lost 30,000 camels, largely because they had no idea how to look after them. In the First World War, camels were ridden until they collapsed from exhaustion. In 1918, after the fall of Jerusalem, Geoffrey Inghbald of the Imperial Camel Corps wrote: '[L]ooking back along the route we had passed, we could see an endless line of corpses fading into the distance.'

During the Burma campaign against the Japanese in 1944, mules were used to transport military equipment through dense jungle but first these unfortunate animals

had their vocal cords severed to silence their cries. Mules were subsequently drugged and dropped by parachute behind enemy lines. Major Thornelow said: "Those mules never let you down." Such loyalty was not reciprocated. When soldiers were rescued from Dunkirk in 1940, their mules were abandoned on the shores.

Not even elephants – much lauded for their intelligence and dignity – could be certain of human loyalty. Used in ancient military campaigns to carry soldiers into battle and more recently to carry equipment for bridge and road building, elephants have been sacrificed in war. In Hannibal's attack on Italy in 220 BC, just one of the 37 elephants survived the cold. In the Second World War, the British deliberately bombed elephants who were being used by the Japanese to transport equipment.





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HORSES OF THE RUSSIAN COSSACKS WERE TRAINED TO LIE DOWN AND PROVIDE COVER FROM ENEMY FIRE

Animals have long been subjected to the fear and danger of wars on the frontline. In March 1918, British troops launched a cavalry charge at German soldiers using 150 horses. Only four survived: the rest were cut down by machine gun fire.

frontline

More than eight million horses died carrying men, supplies and arms into battle in World War I. Many perished from exposure, disease and starvation.

Throughout World War II, dogs were kept in Allied trenches as sentinels and others were sent out to draw enemy fire. Many more were taken to the frontline by soldiers unwilling to leave their companions behind and suffered the same painful deaths as their human carers. Silver, a sentinel dog, and Peefke, who had been trained in mine detection by the US Army, were both killed by hand grenades in 1945.

Also in World War II, Wolf, a sentinel dog stationed with the 27th Infantry of the US Army, received severe shrapnel wounds that were not discovered until after he had seen his patrol safely past the encircling enemy and back to their camp. Wolf died of his wounds.

Offering up the lives of animals remains a contemporary wartime practice. In Jerusalem, in 2003, a Palestinian strapped a remote-controlled bomb to a donkey and sent him to his death among Israeli soldiers.



Animals provided an important morale boost to soldiers posted overseas in both World Wars, but little thought was given to how those animals fared in dangerous and frightening circumstances.

support & companionship

Animals were unable to feed naturally or even, in some cases, move about. Mascots kept in World War I trenches included a scorpion in a pickle jar and a goldfish in a whiskey bottle.

While some animals and birds were deliberately taken to the frontline, others who had been displaced by warfare or abandoned by their families, were picked up by passing soldiers along the way. Many were just as easily dumped when the soldiers moved on again.

Many mascots – including Voytek (a bear) adopted by the Second Polish Transport Company in Persia, Donald (a deer) kept by the 42nd Royal Highlanders and Tirah (a donkey) kept by the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry in India – were given alcohol, presumably for the amusement of soldiers. Such recklessness rarely had a happy ending. Voytek was handed over to Edinburgh zoo; Donald was so

disturbed by his treatment that he became aggressive towards people and was shot; and Tirah, unwell and irritable from alcohol withdrawal was abandoned when the regiment moved on.

And yet animals lifted spirits and nursed injured soldiers back to health. A dog named Daisy was aboard a Norwegian ship when it was torpedoed. Surviving crew members were thrown into the icy sea. Throughout the night, Daisy swam from one man to another, comforting and encouraging them by licking their faces. She was awarded an RSPCA medal for keeping them alive that night.

Another dog, Bob, who was on the frontline in the Boer War carried water to troops under fire. He filled water bottles that were strapped to his body by lying down in a stream, and returned them to the men when they were full.



JENNY WAS A MASCOT ON BOARD HMS WESTMINSTER



PIGS ARE USED FOR BATTLEFIELD SURGERY

The number of animals used in weapons research in British laboratories quadrupled between 1997 and 2007, from 4,500 to more than 18,000.

research

Most of this research takes place at the Ministry of Defence establishment at Porton Down in Wiltshire. Animals are poisoned by chemical warfare agents, subjected to blast injuries, dosed with sensory irritants, killed by bacterial toxins and deliberately wounded. Millions of animals have suffered and died at this secretive laboratory since it was first opened in 1916.

Sheep, goats, mice, rats, guinea pigs, monkeys, dogs and cats are among the species used in these experiments. Pigs are a particularly popular choice for weapons research, and continue to be subjected to explosives tests. In one experiment, 18 live pigs were anaesthetised and placed a few feet away from explosives, which were then detonated. They were left to bleed until almost a third of their blood had drained from their bodies, to see how long they could then be kept alive. Before the tests, scientists inserted tubes into the blood vessels and bladders of the pigs, and removed their spleens. A wire was placed in a major blood vessel to ensure it was lacerated during the explosion.

Warfare experiments are undeniably cruel. When the nerve agent *soman* was used on monkeys, they became prostrate with violent convulsions and then lost consciousness. At higher doses, the animals made attempts to crawl about the cage, and died an hour later. The same substance made guinea pigs salivate, urinate, defecate and have convulsions, before dying of respiratory failure. Pigs have been left with pendulous blisters after mustard gas experiments, and dogs have been reduced to shivering wrecks thanks to riot control gas.

Scientists employed in the war effort have explored many methods of killing people by practising on animals. In World War II, bombs were surgically attached to bats by American scientists with the aim of dropping them over Japanese cities. A test run in New Mexico, using bats purposely chilled into hibernation, saw the sleepy bats crash to their deaths. This particular plan was abandoned but others just as appalling continue to be developed.

All animals living in affected countries are vulnerable when humans engage in conflict with one another.

summary: disposable assets

In 2003, Iraqis leaving Kuwait shot an elephant at Kuwait zoo and turned the hippos loose. Other animals were shot or incinerated in their cages. Photographer Steve McCurry said: "I was driving through the oilfields for several weeks after the hostilities ended and often came across cattle, camels and horses wandering around like zombies. I guess most died eventually – all the water holes and vegetation were covered in oil."

At Baghdad Zoo, big cats were left to starve in their cages while other animals were "looted". Soldiers who happened on the starving lions, cheetahs and bear threw them their own meals – a sign of compassion in a pitiless scenario – but when these failed to satisfy the starving animals, they rounded up live sheep and pushed them into the lion compound.

Animals living in conflict zones have no choice. Like many humans, they are victims of wars not of their making and over which they have no control. Even those who have boosted morale and saved lives could not rely on humans to care for them and protect them. Organisations such as the World Society for the Protection of Animals (VSPA) and the Society for the Protection of Animals Abroad (SPAN) work in countries where war has left animals vulnerable and suffering. Such organisations, funded only by public support, work hard to help animals when they have been abandoned to their fate.

Animals in wars are not heroes; they are victims. They do not give their lives; their lives are taken.

PENGUINS NESTING ON A MINEFIELD



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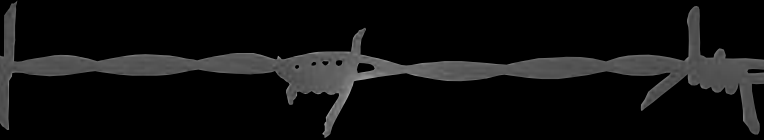


what you can do to help animals

- Wear a purple poppy or an enamel poppy badge to commemorate the animal victims of war (available from www.animalaid.org.uk or 01732 364546)
- Order a Poppy Sales Pack and help us to raise awareness by selling purple poppies
- Order a purple poppy wreath to commemorate animals at November 11th services
- Help raise awareness by ordering leaflets free of charge and distributing them to family and friends
- Collect signatures on our petition against the use of animals in warfare experiments
- Write to your MP and the Home Office to protest about the continued use of animals in weapons experiments
- Write to your local newspaper about the fate of animals caught up in human conflicts
- Support organisations such as WSPA, SPANA and The Brooke, as they care for animals who have been harmed or displaced by human conflicts
- Join Animal Aid and support our work to protect all animals



A BEAR WAS JUST ONE OF THE
MASCOTS ON BOARD HMS ROYAL OAK



Animal Aid exposes and campaigns peacefully against all animal abuse, and promotes a cruelty-free lifestyle



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Published by Animal Aid, September 2010
ISBN: 1-905327-09-9



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