

ANIMAL HEROES WARRIOR. THE 'WAR HORSE'

This month, NG Kids' time-travelling mouse, Max, visits Warrior, the 'bravest horse that ever lived'...



Welcome readers, to the Great War of 1914 - 1918, also known as WWI.

The first truly global war that started in Europe and flared up everywhere else. Supposedly 'The War to end all Wars'!

Fighting alongside these men and women were the unsung heroes of the war, horses. More than a million were sent to the front line, yet only 62,000 returned.

*Except that it didn't.

One of the most famous of these 'War Horses' was General Jack Seely's 'Warrior'. Seely and Warrior had a special bond and were renowned for their bravery under fire.



We'll have some lark, eh old boy?

They arrived in France in the summer of 1914, narrowly avoiding capture by the German enemy almost immediately.



If they say anything, Warrior, don't forget you're just an ordinary French washer-woman.

Warrior proved to be an extremely brave horse, never flinching, even when shells exploded right behind him!



Turn ti turn! Shells? What Shells?

He was also a very lucky horse. Seconds after leaving his stable, it was blown to smithereens by a German shell!



Good job I was wearing four lucky horse shoes!

Sometimes, though, his luck wasn't with him and he got stuck for hours in deep mud...



Next time, I'll wear my wellies!

Warrior's moment of greatness came in 1918. He and Seely commanded the Canadian Cavalry, leading the charge to flush out the German army from Moreuil Wood.



Are you ready, chaps?

NEIGH!!

I think that means YES!

The assault was an amazing success! Warrior led steadfastly from the front and General Seely was able to place a flag at the top of a hill, guiding 1,000 horses behind that were galloping into battle!



By nightfall, the Germans had been defeated and the woods captured. It was an important turning point in the war!

Warrior retired from duty a real hero. Major Seely even recommended (unsuccessfully!) that Warrior be awarded a Victoria Cross medal for bravery because...



He went everywhere I did!