Animals in World War I/Journal Entry Project

How animals were used in the war effort and what it was like having an animal friend during World War I.

In the following assignment, you will look at some primary source photographs from the Great War (World War I) with descriptions and links. You will study these examples through the links provided and pick an animal and write about him/her in a journal entry.

The First World War was significant in that it was the last major war to use animals on a large scale. World War I was the last major war to use cavalry (horse soldiers) on a massive scale. The war was also distinctive in its use of carrier pigeons for transferring messages across the trenches, and in using dogs for both guard duty at the trenches and carrying medical supplies to wounded soldiers. Other animals such as cats, foxes, camels, and elephants were also used in the war. World War I was the first war to include an animal veterinary medical corps that worked alongside the human medical corps. Having many animals on the front also resulted in many casualties (injured and dead). The Veterinary corps was formed to take care of the sick and wounded animals and to dispose of dead animals. The 18th, 29th, and 36th Veterinary Corps came from Camp Grant in Rockford; they saw extensive action in France during the war. You will assume to be a member of one of these corps for your journal entry.

Your assignment:

- Write a three paragraph journal entry as if you were a soldier or nurse during WWI.
- In this journal you are recounting your experiences from the front in France as an American soldier or nurse or from back home at Camp Grant.
- You will be talking about your favorite animal companion (your choice from the five photos included). If you want to choose a different animal let me know.
- Your entry must be specific to the first world war and must include some of the experiences that you and your animal companion lived through on the front.
- Make sure that you give him/her a name. ;-)

Illinois State Standards Used:

- Goal 16: Understand events, trends, individuals and movements shaping the history of the United States.
- Goal 16: A. Apply the skills of historical analysis and interpretation.
- Goal 16: D. Understand United States and local social history.
- Goal 18: B. Understand the roles and interactions of individuals and groups in society.

Photo #1: U.S. Sergeant Stubby.
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sergeant_Stubby#/media/File:Sergeant_Stubby.jpg

Here is a link with the history of Sergeant Stubby in the war:
http://amhistory.si.edu/militaryhistory/collection/object.asp?ID=15

Photo #2: German soldiers with a machine gun on a horse transport.
http://www.theatlantic.com/static/infocus/wwi/wwianimals/

Photo #3: A Carrier Pigeon with camera attached with a timer mechanism for clicking pictures.
http://www.theatlantic.com/static/infocus/wwi/wwianimals/

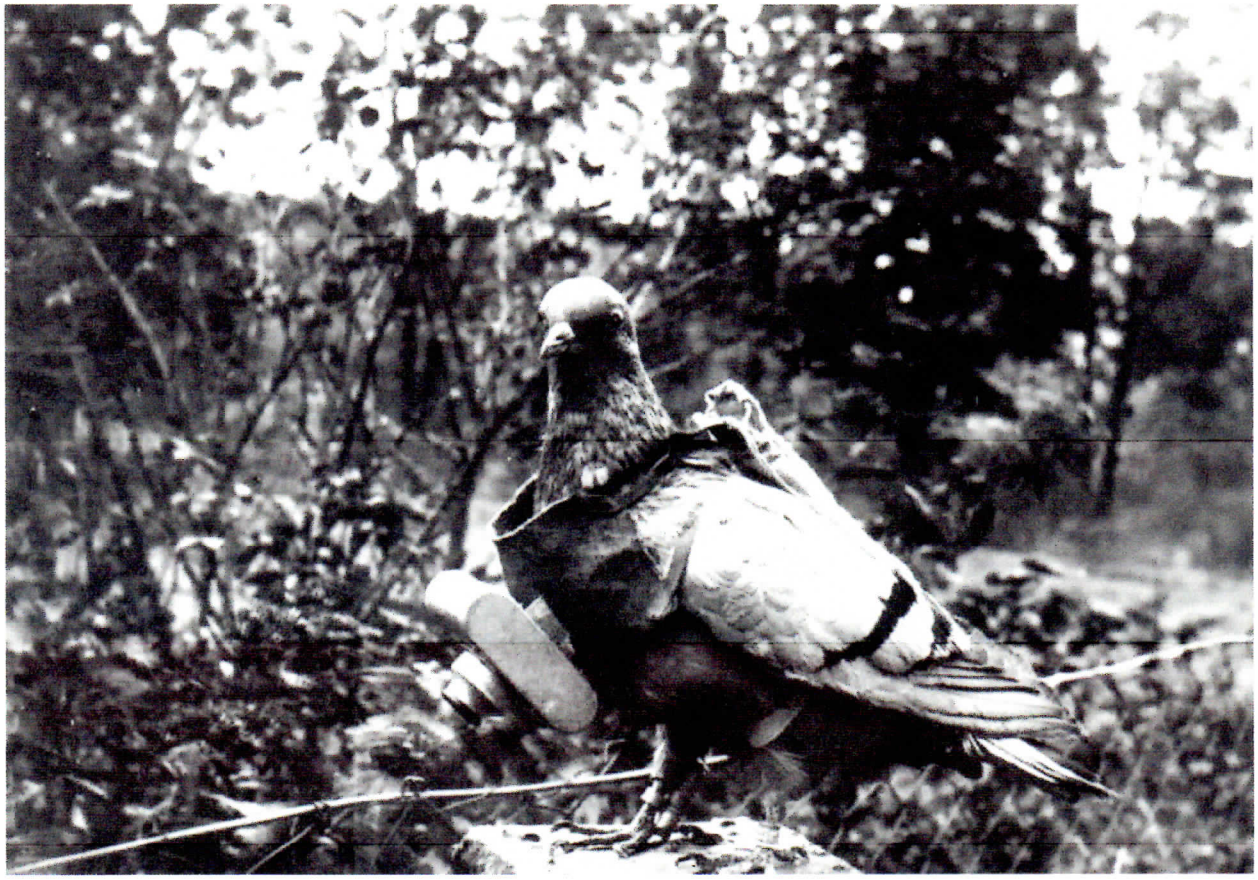
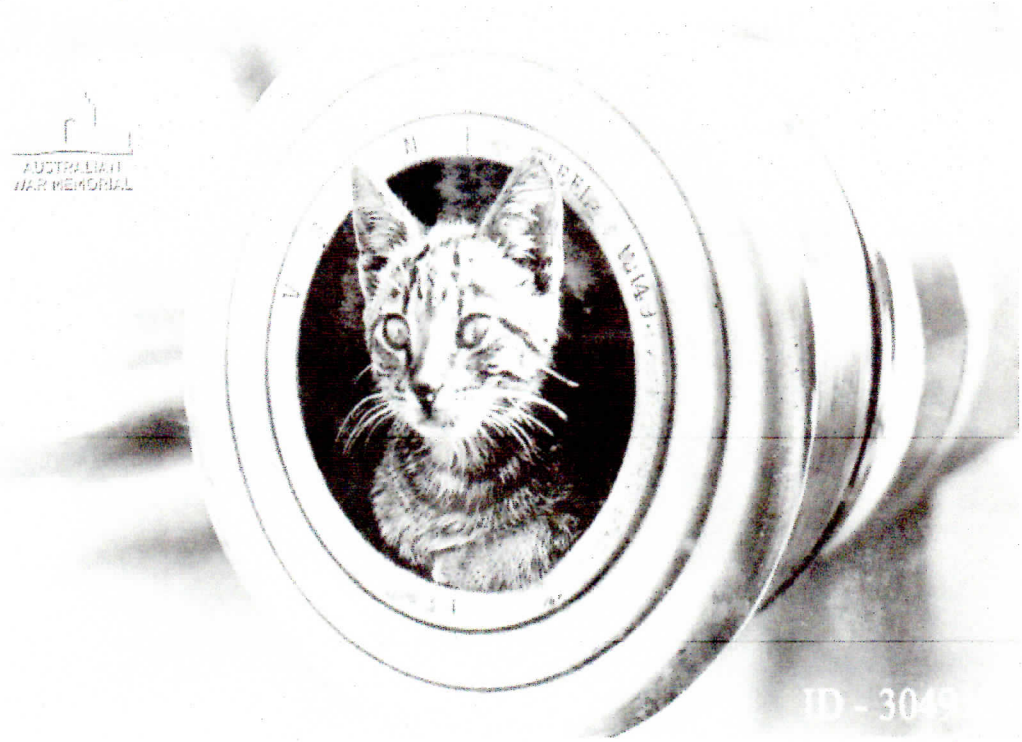


Photo #4: British Medic Dog used to carry bandages to the front for the wounded soldiers.
http://www.theatlantic.com/static/infocus/wwi/wwianimals/

Photo #5: The feline mascot of the light cruiser HMAS Encounter, peering from the muzzle of a 6 inch gun during WWI.



http://www.bing.com/images/search?q=Camp+Grant+Mascots+World+War+I&view=detailv2&&&id=5B84D9E4552B9AA8FB26FAD7CEFE45E8D0E9D348&selectedIndex=26&ccid=VYPpLiJ2&simid=608012433102340688&thid=JN.aIGlA2YsOYCX4OOrINrpCw&ajaxhist=0

The examples provided have been photographed from different armies who fought in the war, but all of these animals also found their way into the U.S. Military.

Additional Sources:

http://www.iwm.org.uk/history/15-animals-that-went-to-war

http://www.gjenvick.com/Military/ArmyArchives/TrainingCenters/CampGrant/index.html#axzz3fzD65PEd

http://www.wartimememoriesproject.com/greatwar/allied/avc-gw.php

http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~gregkrenzelok/veterinary%20corp%20in%20ww1/veterinary%20corp%20in%20ww1.html

Journal Entry: Remember that America entered the war in April of 1917 and the war lasted until November 11th, 1918. Try to make your entry imaginative and be sure that it is at least three paragraphs in length.