

## FOCUS ON: The Animals of WWI (36m 46s)

<https://jotengine.com/transcriptions/lmiPTvCYu7EtxCKpoxneOA>

7 speakers (Theo Mayer, Cindy Rullman, Jo Ellen Hayden, Andrew Blackman, Jacy Jenkins, Jordan Beck, Leah Tams)

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**Theo Mayer:** Welcome to World War I Centennial News, the Doughboy Podcast, episode number 141. The Doughboy Podcast is about what happened 100 ago during and after the war that changed the world. Now, it's not only about then, but it's also about now, how World War I is still present in our daily lives in countless ways. But most important, the podcast is about why and how we'll never let the awareness of World War I fall back into the mists of obscurity. So join us as we explore the many facets of world World War I, both then and now. I'm Theo Mayer, the chief technologist for the commission, and your host. Welcome to the show. Today we have the next installment of our Focus On series. This week we bring you focus on the animals of World War I, from draft animals to best friends, and even some truly unusual critters in the trenches. We'll explore the important and even crucial roles that animals played in the war that changed the world. The Doughboy Podcast is sponsored and brought to you by the US World War I Centennial Commission and the Doughboy Foundation, dedicated to remembering those who served in World War I. And to building the national World War I Memorial in Washington DC. And this week we have big news about the Memorial project. A little background, according to their website, the Commission of Fine Arts is a government agency established in 1910. It's charged with advising the federal government and the District of Columbia on matters of design and aesthetics as they effect and preserve the dignity of our nation's capitol. The Commission of Fine Arts reviews designs proposed for memorials, coins, metals, new or renovated government buildings, as well as privately owned properties in certain areas of Washington. They're the guardians of Washington's look and feel. And as you might guess, the concept design and creation of the national World War I Memorial in the nation's capitol is something that comes under their purview. Well, this past Thursday morning, September, 19, 2019, the Commission of Fine Arts, the CFA, officially approved the Memorial design, after over four years of intense and incredibly dedicated work by our Memorial development team. It's a proud and significant moment for the commemoration of the nation's effort and sacrifice in the war that changed the world. And we wanted to share this accomplishment with you. There's an 80 page document that details every aspect of the new World War I Memorial. From the creative and schematic design, to nuanced details of the material stone and metals that are being used, the lighting, the inscriptions, the plants, that are going to grace the park. The document is a wonderful insight into what's coming. And you can have a copy of the document for free by going to [ww1cc.org/memorial-design](http://ww1cc.org/memorial-design). All lower case. And if you miss that, the link is in the podcast notes. That's [ww1cc.org/memorial-design](http://ww1cc.org/memorial-design). Of course, there's still work to be done to get our building permits finalized and finishing up the fundraising.. But as I keep telling you, we're very close and with your help, we've been getting closer still to all of you that have texted the letters WWI or WW1 to the number 91999 and given us a contribution, thank you. Every time you do that, the hardworking and dedicated men and women that are pulling on the ropes to make this real are reassured their effort is worth it. Give them a big clap on the back. They deserve it and so do the World War I veterans. Thank you. If you want to talk about the unsung heroes of World War I, you have to give a big shout out to the literally millions of animals that served. The children's book War Horse, which became an internationally acclaimed stage musical, and then a Steven Spielberg feature film, is just one reminder of the service provided by animals during World War I. Even though as you'll learn in the episode, the story may have been a bit idealized. No matter. Horses and mules were crucial to the war effort at a time when war was just beginning to be mechanized. But no less important were the dogs, the pigeons, and even some wingless and legless creatures. Am I talking about snakes? You'll just have to listen to find out. So with that as a setup, let's jump into our centennial time machine to explore the roles animals played in the war that changed the world. Horses and mules are probably the animals that are most often associated with World War I. Brooke USA is a preeminent equine charity, but one of the things that they contributed to the World War I Centennial Commemoration was their research and curation of a wonderful website on the US World War I Centennial Commission server. This is where they tell the story of horses and mules during World War I. You can find this incredibly rich resource at [wwonecc.org/horses](http://wwonecc.org/horses). All lower case. The link is in the podcast notes. So if you love animals, and especially if you love horses, you owe it to yourself to check it out. First of all, there were a lot of American horses and mules that deployed over there. Well before any of our Doughboys. Cindy Rullman, Brooke USA special events and outreach manager, tells us more.

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**Cindy Rullman:** What we know so far is that there were approximately 1 million horses and mules who were shipped to England and then on to France from the United States during the three years prior to the United States entering World War I. And those animals were used for extremely important tasks, such as transporting guns and ammunition to the front lines. They carried men into battle. They carried wounded men back to safety. They transported food, water, medical supplies, everything imaginable, through terribly, terribly difficult situations.

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**Theo Mayer:** These horses and mules faced hard conditions during the war, but sadly often faced even harsher conditions afterwards. Prompting the organization's founder, Dorothy Brooke, into action. This is Jo Ellen Hayden. She's also with Brooke USA.

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**Jo Ellen Hayden:** It was founded in Egypt back in the early 1930s. There was a woman named Dorothy Brooke. She was the wife of a British Army officer who got stationed in Cairo. And when Dorothy arrived there she found, in the street, some terrible looking horses. They were emaciated, lame, in very, very bad condition under terrible working conditions. And she realized some of them bore the brand of the British Army. When the British Army finished with World War I, they sold the animals that they had to the local populace. Some of those animals ended up in Egypt, and they were still alive in the early 1930s, which was rather remarkable, given their tear. And also that was somewhat old for a horse at the time. These horses would have been well over 20. Dorothy was very compassionate. She wrote a letter to a major London newspaper. And she decided to have a fundraising campaign, and her idea was to buy these horses from the people who own them now, at that time, and then bring them back to England to live out their days. And so in the end she did raise quite a bit of money just based on that one letter that got published in London. She bought up over 5,000 horses. And from that has grown this incredibly large organization that works in the developing world now.

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**Theo Mayer:** Many of the British Army horses actually came from America. But what about the horses and mules that the American expeditionary forces deployed? Did they get to come home? Brooke USA, Cindy Rullman, fills us in on that.

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**Cindy Rullman:** We only know of 200 animals that to come home after the war. And for any of your viewers who may have seen the Steven Spielberg movie War Horse, or the Broadway play War Horse, that had a very happy ending, but that wasn't reality. These animals were left behind. They were ... The ones who survived were usually sold for slaughter, sold for hard labor. And so they ended up really in worse condition than they were when they were in the war. The charity that was started as a result of that is still operating today around the world.

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**Theo Mayer:** The website that Brooke USA curated is at [wwonecc.org/horses](http://wwonecc.org/horses), and it offers a wealth of additional information for our listeners that are passionate about horses and equines in general. Jo Ellen fills us in on some of the things that you're going to find on the site.

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**Jo Ellen Hayden:** So we're trying to show what their lives were like when they were there, what kind of work they did, how the shipping was handled across the ocean, what kind of harness and saddlery they wore, how they were trained for war, recovering the veterinary corps in the army, and the diseases and injuries that were prevalent, what kind of impact poison gas had on the animals, how they were fed, and how that hay and grain got to France. It was many, many thousands of tons that were shipped. If you can imagine, there was a great deal more hay and grain shipped to France by both the British and the Americans. Then there was oil, so that tells you right there, these animals were doing far more of the horsepower work, in the most general sense, than were motorized vehicles. So then we're going to talk about what happened after the Armistice, how these horses were disposed of. Because that is in fact what happened. They were sold in place and then we go into also some more general information about horses and mules, about their temperaments, why they act the way they do, how they experience the world as animals. This is not something we're making up. This is really well known horsemanship. And then some information about things like the mud, the mud that was so prevalent in France. Why was it there? And it particularly, of course, impacted animals that were trying to pull things through the mud, sometimes falling into shell holes that were filled with water and immediately being up to their bellies, or even higher, in that mud, and how difficult it was to get them out if they fell in. If this war had taken place even ten years later, motorized vehicles would have been able to do the work that the horses and the mules did in this war, but the motorized vehicle technology simply was not quite robust enough to handle the conditions in the battlefield.

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**Theo Mayer:** Our sincere thanks to Brooke USA and the organization's Cindy Rullman and Jo Ellen Hayden for putting together this comprehensive resource about horses and mules in World War I. I don't think you'll find anything else quite like it and you'll find it by following the link in the podcast notes. We've talked a lot about the significant work of the US Army signal corp in World War I. And it's true that the corp was at the forefront of technology to maintain communication and develop new capabilities, including things like wireless. But that doesn't mean that they abandoned old tried and true methods, not when those methods continued to be reliable and effective. Which brings us to the venerable homing pigeon. Let's face it, pigeons are everywhere, although they annoy some people, I've

personally loved them since I was a kid. I loved feeding them in the cities when we lived in Europe. And I had a special affinity for the one that poop bombed my mom, walking elegantly down the Champs-Élysées, wearing a big stylish '50s era black hat. Splat. Then we moved to Asia, to Hong Kong in the late '50s, early '60s. That's when I learned that they were actually quite tasty. Okay. Back to business. Before we dig into the story of pigeons in World War I, here's some remarkable facts. Pigeons can fly 60 miles an hour, and they can cover 700 miles in a single day. Pretty remarkable considering that planes in World War I only went 100 miles an hour, and only had a third of the range at about 225 miles. That's pretty good, 60% as fast and a three time longer range than World War I planes, the pigeon. And even better than our flying humans, homing pigeons can sense the Earth's magnetic field and use it to find their way home from pretty much anywhere. And here's one you probably didn't know. Pigeons are only one of six species of animals that can actually recognize themselves in a mirror. Pigeons can be trained to recognize every letter in the alphabet. The bottom line, pigeons are smart, they've got skills, and they're pretty much all around amazing. And I humbly apologize to the ones that I ate. Journalist Andrew Blackman wrote a book called Pigeons, the Fascinating Saga of the World's Most Revered and Reviled Bird. Revered and reviled? Well, here's what he says.

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**Andrew Blackman:** Well, it's interesting. For the vast majority of human history, they've been revered. Mesopotamians mentioned them and their cuneiform tablets, they're an Egyptian hieroglyphs. They were seen as fertility symbols. They were the first domesticated bird, they have been used all through human history. Messages were sent up and down the Nile about flood levels, and they'd been used during all sorts of wars to help us. [inaudible] Reuters started as news gathering organization on the backs of pigeons. The reviling is actually quite new. It's always since, really, post World War II. And it had to do with just over abundance of pigeons in our cities. It's mostly an Anglo-American thing, in terms of profiling them. And it happened pretty quickly. The pest control industry reviled them as well in their advertisements. When there was so much cheap food around in abundance after World War II, the US was in prosperous times. [inaudible] just fell on the ground and you end up getting a lot more pigeons. So that's how they became reviled.

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**Theo Mayer:** Revered or reviled, from ancient times to the 20th century. Armies learned to rely on homing pigeons as messengers. Ancient Persians and Greeks use them. It was a pigeon that first brought news of Napoleon's defeat at Waterloo, during the Franco-Prussian war, it was pigeons that carried messages from an encircled Paris to unoccupied France, establishing the general principle that carrier pigeons make communications possible in duress of circumstance. Which begs the question, how do homing pigeons know where home is?

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**Andrew Blackman:** It happens automatically. Homing pigeons are a breed within the species of pigeons. And basically they're bred for their homing instincts. Some are better than others, just like some play soccer rather than others. Their imprint is the minute they're there, so when you train them, you taken a block away, a mile away, ten miles away. And actually up to 600 miles away if their racers. And they'll just come back home like a laser guided missile, without stopping for food, water, rest, or anything.

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**Theo Mayer:** I've seen pictures of World War I mobile pigeon coops. They look like houses on wagons, or even motorized trucks. Which made me curious about how that works. How does a pigeon find home if home is a moving target, right? Blackman explains.

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**Andrew Blackman:** That was high tech at the time, frankly. At least in terms of animal breeding. The most important thing to know about them is homers don't go from A to B, homers go from B back to A. Your [inaudible] would send messages from one place back the other, and then he would take the pigeons back, and then you'll send them back again with news releases. Same thing with the mobile lofts, but somehow the breeders, the pigeonaires, were able to acclimate them, so that the loft became their homing spot, versus a permanent spot. It's just a really tremendous amount of breeding and training acumen.

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**Theo Mayer:** Okay, so it works, but I still don't really understand how. What I do know is that pigeons are incredibly reliable messengers.

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**Andrew Blackman:** Well, messages is a big one and that's how they were used during the wars. Pigeons in some ways are more reliable than any other form of communication. In a lot of ways. You don't need electricity, and you don't need a long extended cable like during the Great War. You just need a bird, and a way to attach a message to its leg. So that's basically what they have been used for, for the most part. BF Skinner experiments with them in terms

of recognizing patterns. They can be used for spotting a stranded boat in the middle of the ocean. They're also particularly good at finding anomalies, like if you were to have a bunch of tassels coming off an assembly line, they can pick out the one that doesn't look like the others. But sending messages is critical, and that's what they've been doing. And frankly they're still being used for that. Saddam Hussein used them to send messages during the war, and the insurgents have been using them in the Middle East since then to send messages. They can't be spied on in the same way electronics can with satellite listening device. I'll leave you one story about, I guess, the beauty of pigeons and it has to do with Mike Tyson. Mike Tyson grew up in Brownsville, which was a really, really tough neighborhood. And he grew up with very little adult supervision. And he was very much trapped in the sense of where he came from. And he developed a hobby which was working with a certain kind of pigeon called a flight. And flights like to flying circles and for hours and hours and hours at their time. And so what he would do is he would go onto the roof of the housing he was on, and you would release his birds, and he would watch them fly for hours at a time. And for him that was the only sense of freedom he saw or witnessed, was just birds flying freely above him. Because he hadn't known that for himself. He actually got into boxing when some local kids killed one of his pigeons, and he got furious. And that's kind of how his fighting career started. And I should say too, that in most cultures they are still very much revered and appreciated. And literally the fate of thousands and thousands of soldiers have rested upon the wings of pigeons.

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**Theo Mayer:** Probably the most famous homing pigeon of World War I was Cher Ami, which translated means dear friend. According to the lore, Cher Ami was instrumental in saving the so-called lost battalion, nearly 200 men of the 77th infantry division who were surrounded by Germans in October of 1918. The story goes that Cher Ami was the last pigeon in the coop as the 77th was being battered by friendly fire. Cher Ami was sent bearing a desperate message to hold fire, suffering several wounds flying through a maelstrom of shells and shrapnel and gunfire. Although the lost battalion myth busters will tell you that the first word about friendly fire on the 77th location got back to headquarters just a few minutes before Cher Ami arrived, by the time the gallon bird made it back behind the American lines, he or she, I've heard both, had lost an eye, been wounded in the breast, and had one leg attached by literally a thread, the same leg that carried the message container. Now whether she was the first to deliver the whole fire lifesaving message or not, grateful soldiers fitted Cher Ami with a wooden leg. The pigeon received the French Croix de Guerre for bravery. When Cher Ami died in 1919, she was probably the most decorated pigeon in history. You can go see Cher Ami today at the Smithsonian National Museum of American History in Washington, DC. Where Cher Ami is perched next to fellow World War I animal hero Sergeant Stubby, which is a very good and clever transition for us to talk about dogs in World War I. While they couldn't compete with pigeons as messengers, dogs were also sometimes used to run messages, primarily from one end of a long trench to the other, or from headquarters to the trenches. Doughboys also sometimes fitted a spool of telephone wire to the dog's back, and sent them off to reconnect trenches with headquarters. And of course, terrorists were sought after as the most effective rat hunters in the trenches, something they had a chance to do a lot of. But where man's best friend was especially helpful was when it came to his stronger senses of smell and hearing, to sniff out wounded on the battlefield, to detect poison gas before men were aware of it, and to sense incoming shells sooner than men's hearing allowed. The dogs were unofficial soldiers. The US Army Canine Corps wasn't created until the second World War, but these were the trailblazers. Doughboys were quick to adopt stray dogs. And those strays often repaid their new best friends in lifesaving ways. Two of the most famous World War I dogs were Rags and Sergeant Stubby. Rags was a Scotch Irish Terrier found by a private Jimmy Donovan and Sergeant George Hickman outside a Paris cafe. Rags would run messages, but he would also sense incoming shells and would flop down on his side to warn his human friends. He traveled with Donovan until both were gassed during the Meuse-Argonne offensive. Rags was cut badly on his ears and paws and lost one eye during the battle. He returned to the United States to recuperate with Donovan and Hickman. And in spite of the gas leaving him with a nasty cough lived a long life as a respected war dog. He was buried with military honors in 1936 in Silver Springs, Maryland. Unlike Rags, Stubby was an all American dog who wandered into an army training camp on the Yale University campus, and journeyed to France as a stowaway with his human friend, private James Conroy. Jacy Jenkins, VP of Fun Academy Motion Pictures, who produced an animated feature film on the life of Sergeant Stubby, tells us more about the story.

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**Jacy Jenkins:** Stubby was a stray dog who wandered onto the training camp and New Haven, Connecticut, onto the training camp the 102nd infantry regiment. It was before military dogs, so they taught him how to salute. He became a little mascot. So whenever a Colonel might come over and say, "What's this mutt doing here?" He would salute. And so he really raised the morale of the soldiers. And when his pack went off to war, he snuck onto the ship and he actually fought in 17 battles, catching a German spy in the trenches and being promoted to Sergeant. He was extremely iconic, leading parades around the country when he came back, meeting three presidents. And even having a three column obituary in the New York Times when he died.

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**Theo Mayer:** Jordan Beck, head of communications at Fun Academy Motion Pictures, and one of the character voices incidentally, tells us more about the challenges of making the movie and why they decided, wisely in my opinion, not to give Stubby a voice, but have them communicate like a dog would.

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**Jordan Beck:** ... Were training on the grounds of Yale, and this dog just adopted a soldier named Jay Robert Conroy. We have Logan Lerman voicing Conroy, and the one who really takes Stubby under his wing. When you look at this history and you look at their story, you see that neither one of them would have survived the war without each other. We have Helena Bonham Carter voicing his elder sister Margaret. Now we realized early on in our process that we'd written a story that was devoid of a female character. It was really about Stubby and the guys. So going back into our research, we discovered that Conroy was raised in large part by his elder sister Margaret. So we introduced Margaret as a character to help tell the story through letters and journals between her and her brother. And that really helps us in expanding this time, of really fleshing out this period in history for kids and, frankly, for adults who don't understand what the country was like and what the world was like 100 years ago. And then who better to voice the bon vivant French [qualeiux] soldier who's been in the trenches for years before the Americans arrive, but takes Conroy and Stubby under his wing, who better to voice him than France's most iconic living actor, Gerard Depardieu. So we have a great cast that's really bringing this to life and expanding those black and white photos that we all know into full CGI animated color that the entire family can appreciate and enjoy and learn from. We decided that because this is a historical film and while it is a work of historical fiction, we want to retain as much authenticity as possible. Stubby didn't actually talk in history. So we made the decision that we aren't going to anthropomorphize Stubby to include a voice. So Stubby doesn't talk, but he is very expressive, as dogs are. And really for Stubby to have done all of those heroic actions in history, he didn't have to say gas, gas, gas. He developed his own method of communication that the men of the 102nd second were able to understand. They could look at Stubby and realize, "Oh wow, gas attack incoming, or incoming shells." Because he could hear ordinances that as it was flying through the air. So we wanted to keep that level of authenticity and really allow the historical Stubby's method of communication to be part of this animated film.

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**Theo Mayer:** Like Rags, Stubby also suffered wounds and gassing before returning to the States with Conroy. The media loved him, making him a hero. He hobnobbed with presidents, led parades, and became the field mascot for Georgetown University in Washington, DC. Sergeant Stubby died in Conroy's arms on March 16th, 1926. Now some claimed the dogs like Rags and Stubby were just mere mascots, but the soldiers they served with and whose lives they saved considered them fellows in arms. But even as mascots, the importance of animals to morale can't be overstated, providing much needed comfort and companionship. Oh, speaking of mascots and unusual mascots, there's Whiskey And Soda. Raoul Lufbery, who flew with the La Fayette Escadrille, was America's first flying ace. He and some fellows liberated two lion cubs from the Paris Zoo. Whiskey and his sister Soda became the beloved mascots of the La Fayette Escadrille, and they also became quite large. Then there there's a monkey named Dick, mascot at the training camp at Fort Devins in Massachusetts. The Aussies brought kangaroos to the Middle East, but it was dogs that were the most typical World War I companions. In the aftermath of World War I, dogs found another key role in human service. The first modern school for training guide dogs was founded during World War I, in a country that doesn't often get to be the hero in our stories. Germany. World War I caused a whole lot of eye injuries from poisoned gas, shrapnel, explosion shock, meningitis, and trench hygiene. Tens of thousands of men lost their eyesight. The story goes that one day a doctor witnessed his shepherd interact with a blind soldier in a hospital. Well, a light bulb went off about the potential of dogs to assist men blinded in combat. In 1916 this doctor opened the first guide dog training school in Oldenburg, Germany. From there, guide dog schools proliferated across Germany. And according to Dr. Mark Ostermeier, the school located in Potsdam was highly successful. Ostermeier wrote that it would, quote, "Come to have a major influence on establishing the first guide dog school in the United States." That brings the story to a woman named Dorothy Harrison Eustis, who served as a key conduit between the German dog schools and America. In the 1910s and 1920s, Eustis and her husband trained dogs for the Swiss government at their own facility called Fortunate Fields. In 1927, following a visit to Potsdam, she penned a glowing article for the Saturday Evening Post that described the training and provisions for the German shepherds for blind veterans. Quote, "Because of their extraordinary intelligence and fidelity," wrote Eustis, "Germany has chosen her own breed of shepherd dog to help her in the rehabilitation of her war blind. And in the lovely city of Potsdam, she has established a very simple and businesslike school for the training of her dogs as blind leaders." Dorothy's article didn't escape the attention of one Morris Frank, a young man blinded by two unfortunate accidents. He traveled from the US to Switzerland, where under Eustis' tutelage, he meshed with a dog named Buddy. Frank and Buddy came back to America and deftly traversed the busy streets of New York City together, demonstrating that guide dogs could do their job even in the most crowded and hectic locations. In 1929, Dorothy Eustis and Morris Frank cofounded The Seeing Eye, the first guide dog school in the United States. And this story's yet another unknown legacy of the war that changed the world. We're going to wrap up our focus on animals in World War I with a story about one of the weirder critters that served in World War I. Leah Tams is a program associate of the University of Mary Washington in Virginia, and she's going to tell us about it. When she was an intern at the Smithsonian National Museum of American

History, Leah was researching women's roles in World War I for the museum website, and continuously came across stories of animal roles in the war. As an animal lover herself, when I spoke with her in April of 2019, she told us about this legless, wingless World War I service animal. Was it snakes?

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**Leah Tams:** So it's not snakes, it's actually slugs, which I was very surprised when I found out. So the slugs that served in World War I were leopard slugs, also known as great gray slugs. And essentially they served as mustard gas detectors for American soldiers in the trenches. There was a curator by the name of Paul Bartsch at the Smithsonian's National Museum, which is now the National Museum of Natural History. And he kind of discovered this purely by accident. He had some of these slugs at his home one day, and they escaped from the enclosure that they were supposed to be in and got into his furnace room. And when he discovered the slugs in his furnace room, they were acting very distressed. Specifically, they were doing some very like odd movements with their tentacles to show their distress. And he kind thought, "Oh, okay, that's interesting." And then didn't think about it for a few years until the United States entered World War I in 1917 and he thought, "Oh, this could actually be pretty useful." So he went back and did some quick experiments to see if the slugs were as sensitive to mustard gas as they were to the fumes in his furnace room. And he discovered that they were extremely sensitive, much more so than humans, and possibly even more sensitive than other animals used for gas detection like dogs. So he let the US Army know. And then the slugs were sent off to the trenches, and they helped the soldiers by observing the slugs and seeing if they made these very characteristic distressed movements with their tentacles, could alert the soldiers that they needed to put their gas masks on before they were exposed to harmful levels of gas.

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**Theo Mayer:** Horses, mules, pigeons, dogs, lions, kangaroos, and slugs. Oh my. These stories of aid and assistance, relief and rescue, comfort and companionship, make clear that as we remember and honor the men and women who fought in World War I, we should never forget the service of the animals that served with them during and after the war that changed the world. And that wraps up episode number 141 of the award winning World War I Centennial News, the Doughboy Podcast. Thank you for listening. We'd like to thank all the contributors, talented crew, and supporters that have made today's episode possible, including Cindy Rullman and Jo Ellen Hayden from Brooke USA, journalist and author Andrew Blackman, Jacy Jenkins and Jordan Beck from Fun Academy Motion Pictures, Leah Tams from the University of Mary Washington. Thanks to Mac Nelson and Tim Crow, our editing team, Juliet Cowall, the line producer for the show. Dave Kramer for his research and writing. JL Michaud for web support. And I'm Theo Mayer, your producer and host. The US World War I Centennial Commission was authorized by Congress in early 2013 to honor, commemorate, and educate the nation about World War I on the occasion of the Centennial of the war. For over a half a decade, the commission, commissioner's staff, and our many associates and supporters, have labored to inspire a national conversation and awareness about World War I. We've brought the lessons of 100 years ago to today's educators, their classrooms, and to the public. We've helped to restore World War I memorials in communities of all sizes across the country. Now as the commission's charter to honor, educate, and commemorate the Centennial of World War I has been successfully completed, the full focus of the commission is turning to its capstone mission to build a National World War I Memorial in Washington DC. That after a century of being missing in the nation's Capitol, will finally stand in this important international nexus to honor the memory and sacrifice of the men and women who serve this nation during those transformative years of World War I. We want to thank the commission's founding sponsor, the Pritzker Military Museum & Library, as well as the major contribution of the Star Foundation. The podcast is made possible through the underwriting of the US World War I Centennial Commission, and the Doughboy Foundation. Today's episode and a full transcript of the show can be found on our website at [wwonecc.org/cn](http://wwonecc.org/cn). You'll find World War I Centennial news, the Doughboy Podcast, in all the places that you get your podcasts, including on iTunes, Google Play, TuneIn, Spotify, radio on demand, even on YouTube, asking Siri, or your smart speaker by saying, "Play WW One Centennial News Podcast." The commission's Twitter and Instagram handles are both at [wwonecc](http://wwonecc). And we're on Facebook at the WW One Centennial. Thank you for joining us and don't forget, you can help keep the story alive for America by supporting the memorial, which will stand in our nation's Capitol for generations to come. Just text the letters WWI or WW1 to the phone number 91999. Your contribution matters. [Singing 00:36:31]. Thank you for listening. So long.

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