

World War I



World War II

# DogsIN War

A History resource for 11 - 14 year olds

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## Introduction

Dogs Trust is working towards the day when all dogs can enjoy a happy life, free from the threat of unnecessary destruction. One of our key aims is to reduce significantly the number of stray and abandoned dogs in the UK. Our education programme is committed to educating responsible dog owners of the future.

This resource has been produced by Dogs Trust to provide a fresh approach to the study of World Wars I and II. This unique History resource for 11-14 year olds has been written, trialled and reviewed by practising teachers of History across the UK and is designed to meet the variety of curricular needs in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

## Curriculum Links

### England

From Key Stage 3:

- Historical Interpretation: 3(a) and (b)
- Historical Enquiry: 4(a) and (b)
- Organisation and Communication: 5(a), (b) and (c)
- A world study after 1900: item 13, a study of the significant individuals, events and developments from across the 20th Century, including the two World Wars.

### Scotland

The following curriculum links are based upon the consultative document section 4, which covers Environmental Studies 5-14: Society, Science & Technology:

- Knowledge and Understanding: People in the Past e.g. Time and Historical Sequence; the Nature of Historical Evidence; the Twentieth Century.
- Skills Strands:
  - Identifying appropriate sources of information;
  - Selecting and processing relevant information;
  - Evaluating the usefulness and reliability of information;
  - Distinguishing between fact and opinion;
  - Presenting conclusions and justifying these with reference to evidence.

### Wales

- Interpretation of History - e.g. how and why different interpretations of the past exist.
- Historical Enquiry - e.g. the use of a range of historical sources; selecting sources and collecting relevant information; recording and evaluating the information.
- The Twentieth Century World - The Impact of World War.
- One Historical Theme - e.g. war and society.

### Northern Ireland

- Historical Skills and Concepts.
- Developing the skills of historical enquiry e.g. identifying, collecting and recording information from a range of sources - documents, pictures, photographs.
- Recalling, selecting and organising information from a range of sources with reference to evidence.
- Study Unit 4 - The Impact of World War.



Photo: Imperial War Museum.



Photo from 'A Dog is for Life' by P.Ballard



Photo from 'A Dog is for Life' by P.Ballard

# Teacher's Guide

## Topics

This resource covers the key topics in World Wars I and II lby highlighting the ways in which the military and governments on both sides made use of man's best friend.

<b>World War I</b>	Trench Warfare & Gas Trench Warfare & Communications
<b>World War II</b>	Preparation for War Air Raids Shortages D-Day
<b>World Wars I &amp; II</b>	Propaganda

## Structure

- Each topic has its own sources, questions, activities and challenges which are accessible to pupils of a wide range of abilities.
- The World War I section includes information which introduces pupils to the important role played by dogs in warfare.
- The World War II section contains an account of the life of a dog, 'Sarge', which although fictitious, is based on the real experiences of dogs, their handlers and their owners. The story of Sarge is an excellent introduction to the use of dogs in wartime.

## Nature

- The resource makes use of unfamiliar historical sources which provide a fresh approach to the topics for teachers and pupils. The sources include leaflets, posters, cartoons, paintings, diary extracts, official reports and photographs.
- A range of question techniques are employed to allow for variety and differentiation.
- The resource seeks to raise awareness that the past can be interpreted in different ways.
- Pupils are required to select, use and critically evaluate sources in order to synthesise information and reach conclusions, based upon the evidence they find.

## Differentiation

This occurs in a number of ways:

- The sources, questions, activities and challenges are of varying degrees of difficulty.
- Some of the questions, activities and challenges are sufficiently open-ended to allow differentiation by outcome.
- It is anticipated that teachers will use their knowledge of their own pupils to select those parts of the resource which are appropriate to their pupils' needs. (Some sources may need to be adapted for pupils with weak literacy skills.)

# Teacher's Guide

The *Dogs In War* resource can be used in a number of different ways to suit your teaching needs.

1. To cover individual topics e.g. the nature of trench warfare.
2. As an introduction to some key topics e.g. the impact of World War II on civilians.
3. As stimulus material e.g. gas warfare.
4. To investigate the changing nature of warfare e.g. trenches, gas, air-raids, rockets.
5. To improve the skills of historical enquiry.
6. As the basis of a project-based enquiry e.g. the use of animals in wartime.
7. To introduce pupils to the ways in which war led governments to manipulate public opinion through propaganda.
8. As a homework or task booklet, using only part of each topic e.g. re-writing the story of Sarge for younger children; the Challenge and Quizzes in Make Do & Mend and Dogs and Propaganda.
9. To develop pupils' ICT skills e.g. searching the Internet for further information, word processing and producing posters and leaflets.

## Further Information

For **further information** about Dogs Trust, please refer to our website at [www.dogstrust.org.uk](http://www.dogstrust.org.uk) or contact us at:

Dogs Trust  
17 Wakley Street  
London  
EC1V 7RQ

Telephone: 020 7837 0006.



# Background Information

## The History of Dogs Trust

Dogs Trust was founded in 1891 to protect dogs from 'torture and ill-usage of every kind'.

### The beginning

A 'small party of gentlemen', were brought together by Lady Gertrude Stock during the first ever Crufts dog show. They vowed to campaign for the protection of strays, the provision of proper veterinary care and to campaign against muzzling, prolonged chaining and experimentation on dogs - a widespread practice at the time.

Dogs Trust, formerly known as the National Canine Defence League (NCDL)\* began operations funded entirely by donations from members and supporters. In 1902 membership totalled 1,000. Today, Dogs Trust has over 500,000 members and supporters.

### Practical aid for dog owners

Dogs Trust believed that no one who clearly cared for and looked after their dog should be prevented from keeping it, just because they were poor. The Dog Licence Club, founded in 1910, reflected this and until the licence was abolished in 1987, paid for over 20,000 licences.

### Campaigning

Dogs Trust campaigns on a number of issues, but notable successes include:

- The Cruelty to Animals (Amendment) Bill, known as the Forfeit Bill was introduced by Dogs Trust in 1908. This was later incorporated into the Protection of Animals Act 1911, which gave magistrates the power to prevent anyone convicted of cruelty from keeping an animal in the future.
- Anti-vivisection campaigns - in particular, preventing experiments into the causes and effects of drowning and smallpox using live dogs in the early 1900's and presenting a petition with 9,000 signatures to Parliament in support of the Dogs (protection) Bill.
- Putting an end to the use of dog-lockers in luggage vans on trains in 1903, to be replaced by kennels. Railway companies also agreed to provide water for dogs if they had a label attached to them reading 'please give my dog water', which Dogs Trust had printed and distributed to members.
- Performing dogs - Dogs Trust was responsible for the almost total abolition of performing dogs from the music hall stage by the 1920's.
- Dogs Trust guidelines resulted in cinematograph films (Animal) Act in 1937 preventing cruelty to dogs in the making of films.
- Compulsory muzzling introduced between 1919-1922 following a rabies scare, was ended largely due to the ceaseless campaigning of Dogs Trust, which supported anyone who was prosecuted under the new laws.
- Dogs no longer being confined for two days at championship dog shows, even if they were only required for one day. Blackpool Dog Show in 1939 was the first to introduce a ban on dogs remaining on the grounds overnight and by the late 1940's the practice was universally accepted.
- The emergence of the motor car in the 1920's led to the minority of motorists boasting of how many dogs they had run over. Dogs Trust responded by producing three million leaflets and posters and achieved widespread press coverage. The charity also equipped all the new AA road scouts with humane pistols to enable them to put suffering dogs out of their misery.

\*In October 2003, the National Canine Defence League was renamed Dogs Trust.

In recent years Dogs Trust campaigned on a number of dog welfare issues. It represents the reasonable and well informed voice of dog lovers and always tries to find the most practical solution to any problem.

- The Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 was finally amended in 1997. Dogs Trust acted as the secretariat for the DDA Reform Group, successfully campaigning for changes, including the relaxation of mandatory destruction of dogs found guilty under the Act.

### **Awards for bravery**

Always keen to recognise kindness to dogs above and beyond the call of duty, Dogs Trust awarded its silver medal from 1912 onwards to those people who rescued dogs from beatings, rivers, fires and other hardships.

Dog heroes were also rewarded with inscribed silver coins. One of the most notable recipients was Bob, who carried water to the troops under fire throughout the Boer War. He filled the bottles strapped to his body by dashing into a stream and lying down until the bottles were full before returning to the front.

### **Dogs Trust at war**

Through both world wars when food became scarce and public opinion began to suggest that maybe dogs should provide food rather than consume it, Dogs Trust stressed the value of dogs as rat catchers.

During World War I Dogs Trust paid for over 12,500 dog licences, a valuable help to families whose bread-winner was away at war.

The outbreak of World War II led to Dogs Trust issuing instructions for constructing a gas-proof kennel and gas masks for dogs through appeals on the BBC. Numerous leaflets were produced giving advice on coping with anticipated emergencies such as:

- dogs and the invader
- poison gas and domestic pets
- air raid precautions for dogs and
- war time dog food

Another slightly more unusual illustration is the war work of Dogs Trust, which included the collecting of combings from members dogs' fur to be knitted into clothing for the troops. This was a very successful operation, which continued for many years.

The services of Dogs Trust were also advertised at military camps in the UK, so that camp dogs could be found homes when the camps disbanded. They also found homes for volunteer dogs (messengers, guard dogs, rat catchers) when the war came to an end and helped with quarantine bills for dogs befriended by soldiers at the front and subsequently brought home.

### **Clinics**

The first Dogs Trust clinic offering free treatment opened in Bethnal Green in 1926. By 1949 there were 13 clinics offering a full hospital service throughout the country. The last clinic closed in 1980.

### **Dogs Trust today**

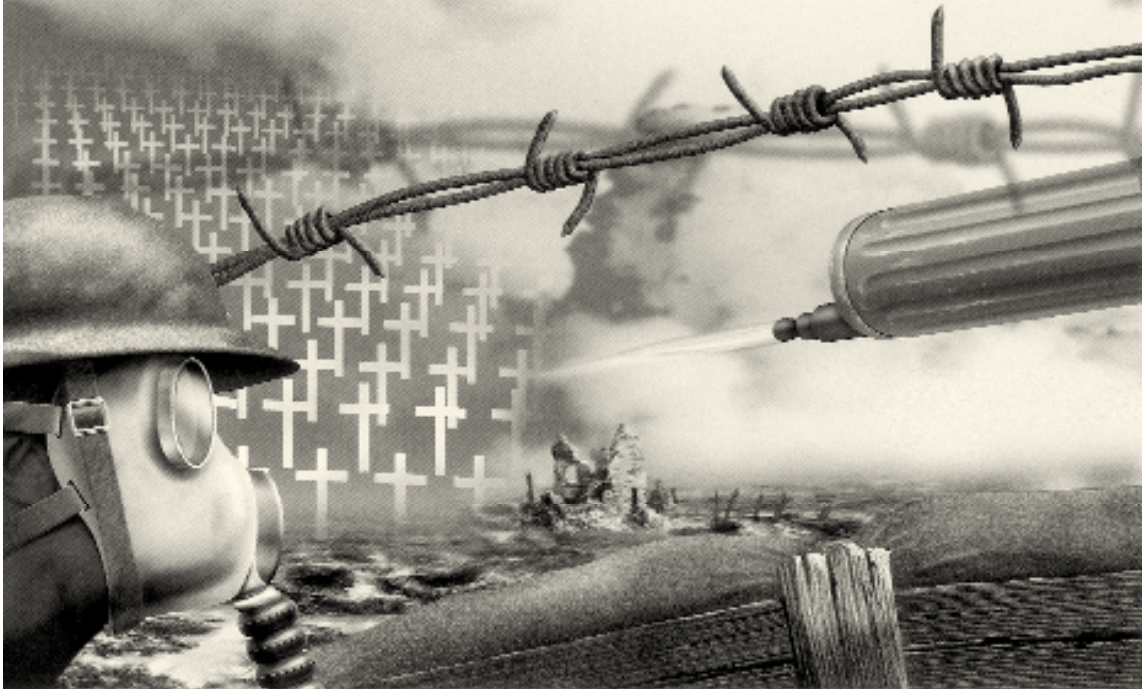
Today, Dogs Trust cares for over 11,500 abandoned dogs every year at our 15 Rehoming Centres throughout the UK. A non-destruction policy was adopted in 1964 and today, dogs that cannot be rehomed become permanent residents.

**Dogs Trust, 17 Wakley Street, London EC1V 7RQ Tel 020 7837 0006**  
**[www.dogstrust.org.uk](http://www.dogstrust.org.uk)**

# World War I 1914 - 18

## Introduction

World War I is usually associated with certain images:



...But dogs?

Dogs played an important role where the danger was greatest - on the front line. All the major countries involved in the war used dogs for a variety of purposes, often relying on them for tasks that were beyond human endeavour.

Dogs had much to offer the military:

- SPEED
- STRENGTH
- STAMINA
- INTELLIGENCE
- OBEDIENCE

Despite this, in Britain the government planned to destroy 50% of dogs, claiming that food was too scarce to waste on them. A campaign led by Dogs Trust persuaded the government to abandon this idea; Dogs Trust even helped soldiers' families pay for dog licences, which was a big help during wartime.

Dogs performed the following roles during World War I:

- guarding military bases
- carrying messages
- laying communication cable
- detecting spies
- carrying first aid equipment, mail and ammunition
- seeking out casualties
- pulling heavy machine guns
- pulling sledges
- rat catchers in the trenches
- looking for mines
- propaganda illustrations e.g. British Bulldog, German Shepherd

The dogs most frequently used in the war were:

- Airedales
- Collies
- Lurchers
- German Shepherds
- Whippets
- Setters
- Wolfhounds
- Terriers





# World War I 1914 - 18

## Trench Warfare & Gas

Chemical weapons were first used on 22nd April 1915, by the German Army against French troops at Ypres. The chlorine gas, often mistaken for early morning mist, swept low over the ground and was designed to choke or suffocate.

Mustard gas (phosgene), which was also introduced in 1915, caused blindness, burns and severe lung damage. For the first use alone, 15,000 were wounded or killed.

However the wind frequently changed, blowing the toxic clouds back towards the users. As a response, basic gas masks were developed for soldiers and animals.

**SOURCE A** *Everyone had to wear gasmasks. The Belgian Front, 1915. Photo from A Dog is for Life by P. Ballard.*

### SOURCE B

"Dogs, used for carrying messages, to locate wounded on the battlefield, to haul ammunition and food supplies, and to lay communication wiring along the front line, were also provided with masks. These used an impregnated cloth pierced with holes for the eyes and ears, above which the dog wore goggles. Surprisingly, both horses and dogs adapted better to gas masks than soldiers did."

*From Silent Heroes by Evelyn le Chene*

### SOURCE C

"The demand for dogs, and still more dogs, grew insistent. In addition to those the (dog training) school trained as messengers, a request was received from Salonika for dogs to act as sentries in listening posts in the front line. Colonel Richardson had already supplied a number of sentry dogs to the expeditionary forces in Egypt and Mesopotamia as well as the Western Front and South-West Africa.

Then came yet another demand. Summoned to London, and asked by the government whether dogs might guard munition factories, depots of various kinds and similar buildings, therefore releasing large numbers of soldiers engaged in such duties all over the country for the shambles of the Western Front, Colonel Richardson replied emphatically that they could."

*From Dogs of War by E. A. Gray*





# World War I 1914 -18

## Activity

### Trench Warfare & Gas

1. Use Sources A & B to help you fill in the gaps in the sentences below, using the words in the list. There are more words than gaps.

.....gas could kill both.....and dogs. Some.....dogs wore a type of.....which included.....

**MESSENGER, PHOSGENE, FRENCH, CASUALTIES, DOGS, GAS MASK, SOLDIERS, GOGGLES**

- To what extent does Source B agree with the information given in Source A about protecting troops and dogs?
- (i) Look at Source A again. Do you think this photograph was a posed or a natural one? Give reasons for your answer.  
(ii) The photograph might have been used in a newspaper of the time. Choose both a serious and a lighthearted title for this illustration.
- Source B suggests that horses and dogs were more able to adapt to gas masks than soldiers. Why do you think this was?
- According to Source C, why were dogs needed?
- How does Source C help to explain why the war was called a 'World War'?
- Categorise Sources A-C as primary or secondary (P/S) with your reasons. Use this type of table:

SOURCE	P/S	REASONS
A		

**YOUR CHALLENGE**  
Use the background information provided on page 4 to create a leaflet warning troops of the dangers of gas.

**Dogs Trust believe that no dog should ever be mistreated.**

During World War I, Dogs Trust encouraged the use of gas masks for dogs. Dogs Trust, being the UK's largest dog welfare charity with a nationwide network of Rehoming Centres, is still protecting dogs from ill treatment. While we don't have to provide gas masks anymore, we still look after lots of dogs that have been abandoned by irresponsible dog owners.

# World War I 1914 - 18

## Trench Warfare & Communications

Dogs were found to be very useful for a variety of communication roles during World War I, often carrying out tasks that soldiers were unable to do.

### SOURCE A



*German messenger dog with collar carrier, May 1917, near Sedan. Photo: Imperial War Museum*

### SOURCE B

"The French messenger dogs had covered themselves with glory... but at an appalling cost. 'If only two out of six dogs came back with their messages I am satisfied', General Gourrauld told Colonel Richardson.

Typical is the familiar story of Satan, the black half-bred greyhound hero of Verdun. Duvalle, his keeper, saw him falter and pause as he raced toward them with a vital message. Leaping on to the parapet in full view of the enemy, he yelled encouragement, 'Courage, mon ami! Venez pour la France!' and fell dead, riddled by a dozen bullets. Satan struggled on trailing a shattered limb and safely delivered his precious missive."

*From Dogs of War by E.A.Gray*

### SOURCE C ▼



*A dog carrying apparatus for laying telephone wires on the Western Front. Photo: Imperial War Museum.*

### SOURCE D

"Rain turned the battlefields into quagmires, bogging down equipment and it was heavy going for the troops as the mud slowed them down in fields raked by machine gun fire. Trenches were often water-logged. When the front moved, new telephone lines had to be laid. A cable dog knew its job well, it knew that the heavy cable that spun from a reel strapped to its back had to be dropped, that it must avoid the hundreds of craters dug by continuous artillery shelling from both sides, churning subsoil into topsoil.

A full reel of cable weighed at least ten pounds and was strapped to the dog's back on a solid harness tied firmly on the underside. The first half of the journey was the most dangerous, for only after that could the dog pick up speed and weave and wend his way through the obstacles back to the relative safety of the trenches. Weighed down, he was highly vulnerable to enemy fire."

*From Dogs of War by E.A.Gray*

### SOURCE E

An extract from a report by Keeper Hammond shows the distance a dog travelled under appalling conditions. (Passchendaele was a muddy swamp.)

"I left Shoeburyness the first week in October, 1917, taking with me two dogs, 'Paddy' and 'Nansen'. I first ran them at Passchendaele, and was on that sector until the beginning of March, 1918. 'Nansen' was killed on the first run, but 'Paddy' was a splendid dog, and never made a mistake during the six months I had him. I consider his best record was carrying a message from Battalion HQ near Passchendaele down nearly to Ypres, a distance of five miles over about three miles of duck-boards. You can imagine the time saved, when 'Paddy' did it in 27-30 minutes and the Battalion Runners were doing it in nearly two hours. After being transferred to the Messenger Dog Service, I did not go up the line again, as I had suffered severely from shell-shock."

*E. H. Richardson, British War Dogs Quoted in Dogs of War*

# World War I 1914 - 18

## Activity

### Trench Warfare & Communications

1. Below are statements relating to Sources B,D and E. Complete the table by writing the correct source letter alongside each fact.

FACT	SOURCE
(i) Three miles of duck-board were used	
(ii) The reel of cable weighed ten pounds	
(iii) 'Have courage my friend,' the dog's owner shouted	
(iv) The writer suffered from shell-shock	

2. Use Sources A-E to describe conditions in and around the trenches or draw a picture to show the conditions.
3. You have been asked to explain what is happening in Source A to someone who cannot see the picture. Use a partner to do this or write a description in no more than 4 lines.
4. 'Sources B & D prove that dogs could perform certain tasks better than soldiers.' Would you agree or disagree with this statement? Give reasons for your answer.
5. Which one of Sources C & D do you find most useful in explaining the work of cable-laying dogs? Give reasons for your answer.
6. Look at Source E again. The description is by a dog keeper or handler. Could this mean that it is biased? Explain your answer.
7. Give each of the sources a newspaper headline to draw people's attention to the brave actions of dogs in World War I.

#### **YOUR CHALLENGE**

In 1915 a campaign was underway to have dogs put to sleep on the grounds that they were a liability in wartime.

As a response to this campaign use the information in Source A or C to design a propaganda poster to show how important dogs were to the war.

**OR**

Write a letter to a newspaper or someone in government based on the information provided, arguing that dogs are very important to the war effort.

**Dogs Trust believe it is important to learn about canine communication.**

Even in war times, dogs proved to be invaluable. They courageously brought urgent messages to and from the troops. Today, dogs are used for essential peaceful work such as providing eyes for the blind, ears for the deaf and mobility for the disabled. Dogs Trust often provides intelligent dogs to other charities, which can be trained to help someone with special needs.

# World War II 1939 - 45

## Introduction

World War II was very different in nature to World War I. Armies were smaller and moved much faster over greater distances, whilst the battlefield was dominated by the tank and the aeroplane rather than the machine gun and barbed wire. Large-scale bombing raids put civilians in the front line.

Although the nature of the war was very different, people's reaction to keeping dogs as pets was not. Food was short, and once again, many thought dogs should be destroyed. It was only the campaigns of organisations such as Dogs Trust that helped prevent this being a widespread solution.



Photo: Imperial War Museum

Fortunately, the ways in which dogs could help the war effort were soon appreciated. So much so, that Dogs Trust, along with other major animal charities, were asked to set up a large pool of dogs suitable for war work.

They were to carry out many of the same types of tasks as in World War I. However, the changing nature of war meant dogs were to be used in a new, but extremely important role - looking for survivors of aid raids.



# World War II 1939 - 45

## Preparation for War

Before the war began, a series of protective and precautionary measures was introduced for the benefit of the general population. These were based upon the experiences of the First World War and other wars, such as the one in Spain from 1936-39. Dogs Trust was anxious that dog owners should remember their responsibilities to their pets, even in wartime.

### SOURCE A

**"Air Raid Precautions for Dogs and Cats**  
Dog and cat owners are advised to obtain and study the relevant chapters of the Home Office A. R. P. Handbook No. 12 (Air Raid Precautions for Animals) published by H. M. Stationery Office and obtainable through any bookseller, price 3d. net, or from this League, price 4d. post free.

The best advice that can be offered to dog and cat owners who wish to keep their pets with them in an emergency is to allow the animals to share the gas-proof or other shelter that they themselves occupy."

From *Dogs Trust Leaflet 486*

### SOURCE D

*A canine guinea-pig tries out a new type of gas-mask. Photo from A Dog is for Life by P. Ballard.*



A number of leaflets were produced giving advice on coping with anticipated emergencies such as:

- Dogs and the Invader
- Poison Gas and Domestic Pets
- Air Raid Precautions for Dogs
- War Time Dog Food

The information was even broadcast on BBC Radio.

### SOURCE B



### SOURCE C

**"Dogs and the Invader**  
Guard dogs usually kept outside should be brought indoors at night to give timely warning of the approach of paratroops and may protect the family by menacing or attacking stray marauders. Kept outside on a chain, guard dogs will be easy victims to enemy tommy-guns.

Domestic dogs should be kept indoors when the church bells ring and, if they have to be taken out, they should be on a strong lead, attached to a good collar or harness with the name and address of the owner inscribed, according to law."

From *Dogs Trust Leaflet 489*

# World War II 1939 - 45

## Activity

### Preparation for War

1. According to Sources A-D how did the government expect the war to affect people?
2. Source C refers to the 'ringing of church bells'. Why do you think this is included in the leaflet?
3. Look at Sources A and B. How do they appear to disagree with each other?
4. Look at the origin of Sources A, B and C. Would you expect the sources to be biased? Give reasons for your answer.
5. Source D is obviously about dogs and gas masks, but it also shows three people from the time. What other information could historians get from the photograph of these people?
6. Source D is a photograph from wartime, therefore it must be accurate and reliable. Do you agree or disagree? Give your reasons?
7. Match each item in List A in the table below, with one of the definitions from List B.

List A	List B	Answer Number
1. The Home Office	Gave advice to dog owners	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Dogs Trust	A dog that is a pet	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Gas mask	Used as a warning	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Church Bells	Government department which gave advice about air raids	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Canine guinea pig	Provides protection against fumes	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Domestic dog	A dog used to try to try something out	<input type="checkbox"/>

#### YOUR CHALLENGE

Write a letter to a local newspaper in which you express your belief that it is not a waste of time or resources to look after animals in wartime, based on the information in Sources A-D and any other you have.

#### **Dogs Trust encourage consideration of the consequences of irresponsible ownership.**

Dogs Trust insisted on dog owners taking responsibility for their dogs, even during the Blitz of World War II. Dogs had to be kept on a lead, and owners had to carry items that would assist as a gas mask for their dogs. Today, Dogs Trust continues to encourage responsible dog ownership. Dogs don't just cost money, but they need to be exercised, trained and loved in responsible caring homes.

# World War II 1939 - 45

## Air Raids

At the peak of the rocket attacks, 20,000 houses a day were being damaged. In all, the rockets killed over 8,000 people and severely injured 22,000.

### SOURCE A

**"11 and 12.11.1944.** Rocket at Shooter's Hill, 20.05 hrs. Public House, Ambulance Depot and 2 offices. Put Irma on right away. Frightful mess. Most of the casualties known to be in bar and billiard room of Pub but a few "unknowns" had to be located. Irma gave strong indication to right of debris... Digging proceeded here and after 2 hours the bodies of 2 women were recovered in the exact position, under approximately 7 feet of debris below the dog's indication."

**"21.11.44.** Rocket at Walthamstow, 12:30 hrs. Four houses completely demolished, about 12 badly knocked about. Searching a house, things were made no easier by water pipes burst in all directions."

"A smashed meter was pouring gas into the rubble. Worked Irma, who indicated she was getting the scent from above her head. Digging and tunnelling as hard as hands could work, a way was made in and a voice contact was made with a woman who had with her a baby and little boy. They were trapped in a Morrison shelter on ground level... 5 minutes before the shelter corner was cleared (it took 1<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> hours) she replied. The two children were both brought out alive and unhurt but their mother was dead from suffocation."

*Extracts from the diary of Margaret Griffin, a dog handler whose two dogs, IRMA and PSYCHE, located 233 people in bombed premises.*

At the end of the war, many of the volunteer dogs used by the military were found homes by Dogs Trust which also helped soldiers pay quarantine bills when they brought home strays.

### SOURCE B ▼

*Irma licks the casualty she has found. Photo: PDSA.*



# World War II 1939 - 45

## Activity

### Air Raids

1. Read Source A and then say whether each statement is true or false. If you believe any are false, change the sentence to read correctly.

List A	Answer
Four properties were damaged in the air raid on 11.11.44	TRUE/FALSE
The bodies of two women were found after 3 hours	TRUE/FALSE
A rocket fell at Shooter's Hill on 21.11.44	TRUE/FALSE
Irma & Psyche found the scent	TRUE/FALSE
Three people were trapped in a shelter	TRUE/FALSE
Machinery was used to dig away the rubble	TRUE/FALSE

- 2 (i) Source A is an eye-witness account. What does this mean?  
(ii) Because it is an eye-witness account it must be reliable. True or false? Give reasons for your answer.  
(iii) How could you check the accuracy of these descriptions?
3. The first extract in Source A refers to 'unknowns'. What problem for rescuers does this highlight?
4. How can you tell that Source A describes the scenes after a V1 or V2 attack rather than from ordinary bombs?
5. The person on the far right of Source B is an Army Officer. To what type of organisation are the others likely to belong? Give reasons for your answer.
6. These sources describe the effects of air raids on London. This proves that only London suffered. Do you agree or disagree? Give your reasons.
7. Source A contains diary extracts from the time. Use the information contained in Source B to write a diary extract as if written by Margaret Griffin.
8. Draw a light-hearted cartoon for your local newspaper based upon the people, animals and events in Source B. This should be designed to maintain morale.

#### YOUR CHALLENGE

Codes were often used in wartime to send secret messages. Can you crack this simple code which might have been used to send a message about the bombing? Each block represents a word.

1 12,15,20 15,6 8,15,21,19,5,19 4,5,19,20,18,15,25,5,4 2,25, 18,15,3,11,5,20,19

#### Dogs Trust promotes rehoming and motivates potential dog owners to give a home to a rescue dog.

Dogs showed bravery throughout the different wars, whether they found people or carried messages to the trenches, they were awarded medals for their bravery by Dogs Trust. The Gallant Canine Medal was given to dogs for all kinds of brave acts. Dogs Trust rehomed many dogs after the war, and continues to do so. Thousands of dogs are abandoned and mistreated every year and thanks to Dogs Trust many of them are rehomed with a loving family.



# World War II 1939 - 45

## Make Do and Mend

The war created a number of shortages, as a result of which many items, including food, fuel and clothing, were rationed.

### SOURCE A

*An unusual illustration of Dogs Trust war work was the collecting of combs from members' dogs' fur to be knitted into clothing for the troops.*

*Photo from A Dog is for Life by P. Ballard.*



### SOURCE B

"Some owners gave their pets stale bread to eat, only to find that this was an offence. The increase in domestic poultry and rabbits meant that there were far fewer scraps left over for dogs and by 1943 the League\* was calling the situation worse than in 1917-1918.

Vets agreed that potatoes, long a taboo food for dogs, would not do them any harm providing they took plenty of exercise; but when the League approached Lord Woolton, the Minister for Food, about the possibility of lifting the ban on giving them to dogs, the Minister refused, saying he wanted to encourage humans, not dogs, to eat more potatoes and less bread. In one London borough, kitchen abattoir waste was sterilised, minced and concentrated to produce up to a thousand 2lb jars a week of food fit for poultry, pigs and dogs, at a shilling a jar."

*From A Dog is for Life by P. Ballard.*

\* The League (National Canine Defence League) was renamed Dogs Trust in October 2003

**SOURCE C** ▼ *A sand-bagged reception area for urgently needed aluminium. Photo: Imperial War Museum.*



# World War II 1939 - 45

## Activity

### Make Do and Mend

- What was the purpose of the sand bags in Source C?
  - According to the source why was the aluminium needed?
- Why are there dogs in source C? Choose one reason and explain your answer.
  - The dogs were being taken for a walk at the time the photograph was taken
  - They were the boys' pets
  - They represent Great Britain
- How do Sources A and C show the contribution made by ordinary people to the war effort? Do people seem to consider their pets important?
- The campaigns shown in Sources A and C made very little difference to overcoming shortages. Why do you think they were launched?
- What does Source B tell us about the government's control of everyday life in the war?
  - If you did not know that food shortages existed in 1940 how would Source B help you to realise that?
- Can you suggest general reasons why dogs feature in each of these photographs?
- You are a German agent living in Britain during the war. Use the information in Sources A-C to send a message home explaining how the British people are suffering as a result of the war.
- Number quiz

The statements below all refer to numerical information, such as an amount of something. But what do they refer to? The answers are all contained in the sources. Complete the table to include the missing information and which source it came from.

Statement	Missing Information	Source
They make one aeroplane		
The final period of the First World War		
This equals almost one kilogram		
This is equivalent to 5p		

#### YOUR CHALLENGE

Create a code to send a secret message to fellow animal lovers telling them where they can obtain pet food.

#### Dogs Trust encourages awareness of the commitment involved in owning a dog.

When food was rationed during the war, dogs had to make do with scraps from their owners. The owners knew that they had a responsibility to their dogs as they could live for up to fifteen years. Being responsible includes grooming your dog too, this helps you to bond together. Playing with your dog helps stop him becoming bored and destructive.



# World War II 1939 - 45

## The Adventure of Sarge

The beginning of the war affected the Wilkinson family in the same way as it did most families in London. The house was quickly prepared for the bombing raids expected early on in the war. Blackout curtains were put up, and windows were taped to prevent them completely shattering. The local air-raid shelter was constructed and equipped with provisions: candles, matches, old comics, blankets and other items to bring comfort, in case of prolonged bombing. There was much excitement when the Wilkinsons received their gas masks, but this raised the question of what was to be done for their beloved Collie, 'Sarge'. Sally, the youngest of the Wilkinson family, was the one most concerned for Sarge's safety. She had realised that Sarge would not be allowed in the local air-raid shelter.

"The notice on the door of the shelter says Sarge isn't allowed, Mum", Sally protested. "What is he going to do?"

"I'm afraid he will have to stay here. We'll make him a comfy bed under the stairs. He should be safe there", Mrs Wilkinson replied, to reassure Sally and the other children, Andrew and Stephen. When Stephen, the eldest, found a leaflet by Dogs Trust about helping your dog in a gas attack, he filled a box with the items needed to make a dog's gas mask: two dusters, a piece of soap and a cocoa tin containing some bleach powder\*. He then carefully wrote 'SARGE' on each side of the box and hung it with all the other coats and gas masks next to the front door. Everyone walking Sarge was under strict instructions to also take the box!

However, with the introduction of rationing, Mrs Wilkinson became worried about the problem of feeding Sarge. Indeed many people suggested that dogs should be put down because of the food shortage. Meat of any kind was in short supply, expensive and there was little to spare for a hungry dog. The Wilkinson's were not well off at the best of times. Stuart Wilkinson had been called up immediately and Betty's top priority had been the children. As food became more scarce Sarge was fed on scraps which the family couldn't eat.

*continued...*

*Photo: Imperial War Museum.*



▲  
*Dog wearing a makeshift gas mask.  
Photo: Imperial War Museum.*



\* Don't try this with your dog. You may harm him or her.

# World War II 1939 - 45

## The Adventure of Sarge

Boiled sheep's head and horseflesh was the best Betty could find but Sarge seemed prepared to put up with this - he had always liked his food! Sarge seemed to know that these were special times. He was even prepared to be brushed and combed by Sally, an activity he normally resisted as far as possible! His cast-off fur was then carefully collected and sent to be knitted into socks for soldiers and air-men, in response to an appeal at Christmas 1940.

Events were to take a terrible turn in April 1941. The Wilkinson's house was badly damaged in a blast from a bomb, and they were no longer able to live there. They decided to move to a relative's house in the country but knew there would be no room for Sarge. The children were distraught at having to leave him behind. A friend suggested they offer Sarge to the Civil Defence Service who used dogs to search for people buried by the bombing. Sarge had always been good at sniffing out hidden toys and was certainly intelligent, but would he be what they were looking for?

Betty made enquiries and found that Sarge would be well looked after and, when the war was over, would be reunited with his family. But first he had to pass a selection test.

This was a rigorous check to make sure that the dogs would be capable of the work required. Sarge passed with flying colours and the Wilkinsons bid him a tearful goodbye. His future was by no means certain, as he would be involved in dangerous work searching unstable buildings.

### Sarge on active service

Sarge was introduced to his handler, Clive Bracey of the Civil Defence Service at the War Dogs Training School in Middlesex. Sarge was trained to indicate clearly to Clive if he detected a scent, and Clive was instructed on how to safely carry out searches using Sarge. They became a good team and a valuable part of the search and rescue work of the Civil Defence Service. They returned to a bomb-scarred London, to join a small unit of rescuers at the height of the Blitz.

Sarge's rescues soon made headlines as he found many animals trapped under the rubble of buildings. However, not all rescuers felt this was important - one squad leader sent Clive and 'his dog' home after finding a Yorkshire terrier and two cats from several houses. Luckily, Sarge had other ideas, and even though he was sneezing and coughing from the dust, he kept running around the rubble of one particular house. The collapsed walls and belongings strewn around made the site confusing to the human eye, but Sarge's nose located a strong scent of something trapped beneath a large pile of rubble. He tore at the debris with his paws so much that he cut himself badly. Clive and two other rescuers squeezed their way carefully through the slanting floor boards, and piece by piece they removed the bricks, wood and plaster. Clive called for silence to listen for any sounds being made. The whimper of a small child was heard, and they continued digging, even though a burst water pipe made the search more hazardous. Finally, Clive and his team came to a

*continued...*



◀ *A dog sniffing out survivors during the Blitz.  
Photo: Imperial War Museum.*



# World War II 1939 - 45

## The Adventure of Sarge

bath, behind which they could hear the sounds of children. Two youngsters were pulled out, shocked but relatively unhurt, and Sarge accompanied them to the waiting ambulance, as if keeping watch over his discovery. Their mother had, sadly, been killed, but Sarge's perseverance had saved the lives of the children. After this incident, Sarge and Clive were in demand as a reliable search and rescue team. They made many discoveries of people both alive and, unfortunately, dead. At times, the hazards were overwhelming: broken gas mains, burst pipes and, even worse, the dust and broken glass which made Sarge and the other dogs sneeze and cut their paws. During one night of searching Sarge indicated strongly to Clive to search one particular area, yet the rescuers drew a blank. Clive called Sarge away to search another stretch of buildings. Sarge came reluctantly, but kept returning to the same spot and Clive persuaded some of his team to dig down through the wreckage. Seven feet below where Sarge

had indicated, they found a young girl in a cellar, barely alive. Clive recognised that Sarge was an intelligent and skillful dog, and continued to work with him, checking buildings and on guard patrols of important warehouses. On exploring one bomb-damaged site Sarge showed real excitement. Initially Clive was suspicious that Sarge could have found anything as although that site had not been cleared, no bombs had fallen there for well over a year. Even though Clive could see nothing unusual he believed Sarge's indications could not be ignored. Eventually he and two other rescuers were amazed to unearth an unexploded bomb, which was safely diffused. Sarge had shown a new talent and, with the permission of the Wilkinsons, he was sent to be trained to work with the Army.

▼ *Many dogs were injured in the line of duty. Photo: Imperial War Museum.*



# World War II 1939 - 45

## The Adventure of Sarge

### **Sarge and the Army in Europe**

Since Sarge's nose was obviously sensitive to explosives, he was selected for mine-detection work. Initially, he would begin digging when he found a scent - a deadly action when searching for mines. He was taught to 'freeze' - to sit down and point with his nose - and his handler, who held a long lead connected to Sarge's harness, would move forward to brush away the soil and defuse the bomb. Although metal detectors could discover some mines, they were useless when searching near train tracks, or for those mines made of glass or wood instead of metal. Sarge was able to sniff out the explosives in any type of mine in any situation, and in addition was light enough not to set off the mines, protecting his handler and himself.

After training, Sarge and his new Army handler Ray Sopwith, were part of a platoon sent to France to clear the area during the D-Day landings in June 1944. They cleared a strip of railway line to allow vital supplies to reach the advancing troops.

In October 1944, Sarge and his platoon were involved in checking a crossing of the River Rhine for the allied troops. They came under heavy shell fire and two dogs and a handler were killed. Once satisfied the crossing was clear, the remaining men and dogs sheltered in a wooden shed, but Sarge seemed anxious to leave and eventually led the others back to their camp. The next day, Ray and his fellow handlers discovered that the shed had been blown apart by more shell fire!

Eventually Sarge returned to Britain and, after six months quarantine, was reunited with Sally, Stephen and Andrew, who had returned to London at the end of the war. The family were very surprised to hear of his exploits in France and Germany.

Sarge was awarded Dogs Trust Gallant Canine Medal for his particular bravery in the shelling attack on the Rhine. The Wilkinsons attended the ceremony and Sarge seemed happy to 'retire', but his nose was always on the ground... Sally wasn't sure if he was sniffing for explosives or just the local doggy news!



*Photo: Dogs Trust/Robert Jones*

# World War II 1939 - 45

## Activity

### The Adventure of Sarge

Although this is a fictional story it is based on fact. All the events in it actually happened and represent real wartime experiences. Dogs like Sarge were used to perform important tasks during the war, thanks to organisations such as Dogs Trust, proving that dogs could help humans and should be looked after.

Your challenge is to make use of this story to help you understand the events of 1939-45 which shaped the world in which you live today.

1. Identify where in the story these events occur by paragraph.

Event	Paragraph Number
Protection against gas attacks	
Rationing	
Bombing	
Voluntary evacuation	
Training of dogs	
Search and rescue hazards	
Unexploded bombs	
Mine detection	
D-Day	
Crossing the River Rhine	

2. Divide a sheet of plain A4 paper into 8 sections and tell the story of Sarge in an illustrated form with a cartoon for each illustration.

3. Turn Sarge's story into a much shorter one that you could read to a group of 5-6 year-old children.

OR

In small groups make an illustrated book of Sarge's story for children who have only just learned to read.

**Dogs Trust aim to educate the dog owners of tomorrow about interacting safely around dogs.**

People have dogs in many different circumstances, but always have a responsibility to ensure they are well cared for and trained. Sadly, incidents can occur if a dog meets a stranger who doesn't know how to behave around dogs. Dogs Trust have specially trained speakers to talk to young people about interacting safely with dogs and help build their confidence.



# World Wars I & II

## Dogs and Propaganda

Both the Allies and Germany featured dogs in propaganda materials during wartime. These materials could be anything from air-drop leaflets, posters, newspaper cartoons or even paintings.



### SOURCE A

*From World War I*  
A soldier, himself wounded in the arm, brings his injured companion to the Blue Cross. Oil painting by E. Mondinery reproduced on a postcard. Courtesy of Mary Evans Picture Library.



### SOURCE B

*From World War I*  
German Shepherd Dog used by the Red Cross in World War I. Courtesy of Mary Evans Picture Library.



### SOURCE C

*From World War II*  
Poster printed during WWII. Courtesy of Imperial War Museum, London.



# World Wars I and II

## Activity

### Dogs and Propaganda

#### Source A

1. Why do you suppose the artist has shown an injured dog and an injured soldier?
2. Choose a title or caption for Source A which could encourage people to volunteer their dogs for service.

#### Source B

3. How could historians check the nationality of the soldiers shown in the illustration?
4. What part do you think the dog has played in this scene?

#### Source C

5. Why do you think a bulldog image has been used?
6. This was an official World War II poster. What is it saying to the British public?
7. In what ways are Sources A, B and C similar?
8. In what ways are they different?
9. If the dogs had not been included in Sources A and B do you think they would have been as effective as pieces of propaganda? Explain your answer.

Below is a quiz based on Sources A-C. All the answers are contained in these sources. Add up your score when you have finished, there is one point for every correct answer.

1. A shape or sign associated with churches
2. An item of headgear - 6 letters
3. The French word for this is 'chien'
4. Red and blue are two of the colours, what is the third one?
5. He lost the General Election in 1945
6. It ended in 1945

#### YOUR CHALLENGE

Imagine you are a German during World War II. Think about the messages that Source C is sending to the British people and design a similar poster that could have been used in your country during the War.

**Dogs Trust spreads the message about how to be a responsible dog owner through many different avenues.** Today, we care for over 11,500 stray or abandoned dogs a year, and use posters, leaflets, newsletters and our website to try to find new homes for these dogs, and help reduce the problem of unwanted dogs.