

Imagine you are a farrier in World War I . . .

What is your life like? How do you look after the hooves of the horses in your care?

Horses were expected to march long distances during wartime, sometimes up to 40 miles (64km) per day. Iron horseshoes wore out quickly and usually had to be replaced every month.

Farriers and shoeing smiths were needed to keep horses moving. The primary job of a farrier was hoof trimming and fitting shoes to Army horses. This combined traditional blacksmith's skills with some veterinarian knowledge about the physiology and care of horses' feet.



Hoof-pick and claw hammer used by an Army farrier, 1890

A New Zealand Expeditionary Force shoeing smith at work, 1916

Tools

Smiths usually carried the heavy materials they needed with them as they marched. An Army farrier would have used a variety of tools and nails to clean a horse's feet and change its shoes.



Farriers of the Royal Scots Greys at work, c1918

AN ACTIVITY and a chance to see your work exhibited: See if you can find out more information about the role of a farrier in World War I. Use this information to produce artwork, a story, a poem, a fact file – the choice is yours - email a copy of your work to the Donkey Breed Society (Northern Region) northerndonks@gmail.com and we will exhibit your work alongside our Richmond Purple Poppies as they tour the country. Your

work could be at a well-known military museum later this year or in 2027! Please make sure that your work is accompanied by an email from a parent/carer giving permission for your work to be published and exhibited and let us know how old you are (if you are under 18!). Lovely certificates to all those whose work is exhibited. Good luck and we look forward to hearing from you. **DBS Northern Region.**