



Murphy the Hero Donkey: A true WW1 story

(HarperTrue Friend - A Short Read)

Isabel George

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The remarkable true story of an amazing and loyal donkey during World War I.

The true story of a small grey donkey called Murphy, chosen to be a trusty 'ambulance' during the bloody Gallipoli campaign in 1915. He carried wounded soldiers over the hilly, craggy terrain to the field hospital as the bombs and snipers' bullets rained down. The donkey was recruited by Australian stretcher-bearer 'Jack' Simpson, who cared for his brave helper day and night. Murphy never gave up or complained; he worked to the point of exhaustion, saving hundreds of lives.

At the end of the battle, when the time came for the donkeys to be returned to Greece, the Australian 'diggers' were desperate to protect Murphy - he was one of them, he was a digger and a war hero. They fixed a brown luggage label to his harness, bearing his name and status, and hoped it would secure his safe passage home.

Murphy the Hero Donkey: A true WW1 story (HarperTrue Friend - A Short Read) Details

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From Reader Review Murphy the Hero Donkey: A true WW1 story (HarperTrue Friend - A Short Read) for online ebook

Richard says

One of the most upsetting and reckless campaigns of World War I was the idea to start a front in the Dardanelles advocated by among others Winston Churchill and synonymous with failure - Gallipoli, The daily loss of life made for a constant demand for stretcher bearers; but in difficult terrain amid constant sniping and enemy barrages casualties were close to death when they reached the aid station.

A young soldier had the idea to use a donkey taxi, and a plucky little creature was pressed into service, named Murphy and ultimately considered a four-legged ambulance.

This is the true story of that mule who carried his burden with great energy and credited with saving hundreds of wounded soldiers in the process.

It is remarkable how a simple animal can excel in such difficulties, a lack of food and water, heavy gunfire and bombings as well as the constant annoyance of pests like flies and lice.

The partnership Murphy strikes up with his original handler is quite endearing and reflects those wonderful relationships between a human and an animal of trust and co-dependence. That others longed for Murphy and other donkeys to be evacuated along with the man when the futility of their efforts was finally acknowledged is a tribute to the appreciation these beasts of burden gained.

That the relationship was later immortalised by Australian and New Zealand veterans when remembering the battles and fallen comrades show something special occurred.

This wonderful short story reveals those actions and demonstrates the bond we otherwise can't explain.

Christine Curry says

Good book

It was a short true story. Enjoyed it! Really like the story of a donkey that helped in a war.

Dixie E. Meierotto says

BRAVE LITTLE FELLOW

This makes you marvel at the courage this little donkey had and the trust he had in his handlers through this difficult time.

Elaine Thompson says

Murphy the hero

A lovely short story. An easy read. I'd love to know what happened to Murphy at the end, he was a

courageous animal. What a hero I thoroughly enjoyed this book.

Fionne Jones says

A moving short story that I read all at one go from cover to cover. I would recommend this book even if you don't normally read war stories.
