

successful but better known was the action at Moreuil wood where Lt' G.M. Flowerdew of Lord Strathcona's Horse won a posthumous V.C.

In the Middle East the fight against the Ottoman jihad entered a victorious phase when General Allenby took command of an Anglo-Indian force with a strong mounted component who were engaged in forty-one actions.

In Northern France the draught horse was the key to success or failure. The Field Artillery required up to twenty horses to move its heaviest guns, the more mobile Royal Horse artillery with its lighter 13 pounders, needed a team of four. The Army Service Corps, the Army Medical Corps, the Pioneer Corps and the Non-Combatant Labour Corp all depended on horses to continue their service. The chaos on the roads is hard to imagine with unreliable motor vehicles and tired horses all wanting the right of way, often at night and under fire.

During hostilities on the Western Front the British lost 400,000 horses and it would have been many more but for the dedication of the Army Veterinary Corp. The Great War greatly accelerated the end of the horse as an essential part of Britain's economy and the artists recorded its death throes.

The first English monument to animals in war was built in 2006 in Park Lane, a second will shortly be erected in Romsey.

THE ARTISTS.

For the most part the Equestrian Artists of the Great War were conservative and traditional in their approach recording the training of the horses with realism and giving to scenes of the actual combat a heroic patriotic patina tinged with nostalgia which would both encourage the fighting spirit of the nation and comfort with optimism the public at home. The graphic press in particular, who reproduced many of the images, did not want to reveal the true horror of the war.

Edwin Noble (1876-1941) a sergeant in the Army Veterinary Corps, was the exception, painting scenes of the hell of the short life of the horse. His collection of watercolours is held in the Imperial War Museum.