

DMIST

▼ **TRUE BRIT** General Jack Seely and Warrior. Right, Times and Mirror reports

Warrior was pretending to be brave and succeeding in his task
JACK SEELY

"MY HORSE WARRIOR"

DEATH OF A WELL-KNOWN CHARGER

Warrior, Lord Mottistone's horse, has died at Mottistone Manor, Wight. His age was 32. The weather of the last two years affected his health, and Lord Mottistone regretfully decided to have the horse destroyed.

Lord Mottistone told his story of "Horse Warrior," which he published in the Times. Bred by his life-long owner from a grey mare named Cinderella, Warrior was destroyed in 1918.

Horse War Hero Is Dead

A famous war-horse that fearlessly faced shot and shell throughout the fast war and became known as "the horse the Germans couldn't kill," has been painlessly destroyed at Mottistone Manor, Isle of Wight, at the age of thirty-two.

He was Lord Mottistone's old horse, Warrior, which he and Sir John French used to ride during the 1914-18 campaign.

a fate was unthinkable for Warrior and after the war he became a celebrity. He attended victory parades in Hyde Park, was visited by adoring fans, and in 1922 won a race at the Isle of Wight point to point ridden by "Young Jim" Jolliffe, the groom who first cared for him.

The date of that victory was March 30, 1922, four years to the day since they led that cavalry charge - and Jack's reaction in the winner's enclosure was typical of their relationship.

Instead of congratulating the jockey and going to the bar, he had Warrior re-saddled and rode him home over the Downs, "rejoicing" as he wrote, "in this splendid conclusion of an anniversary which neither of us could ever forget".

Warrior was 14 at the time and lived on through the 1920s and 1930s, his fame ever growing.

He would be ridden by family members and petted by guests as distinguished as Queen Mary and Winston Churchill, but most of all he would continue his extraordinary relationship with Jack Seely which in May 1938 saw an utterly unique celebration.

Horse and rider trotted through the village with their combined ages of 30 and 70 respectively reaching a century. It is a feat as rare as going round a golf course in your own age, but to do it with a horse who had already carried you through four years on the front line of the bloodiest war in history was quite simply beyond even Steven Spielberg and Michael Morpurgo's imaginings.

Go and see War Horse. Smile and cry at Joey's story, feel pride in what horses did for us, sorrow for all those died.

Then wonder again with me at the real deeds of a brave real-life war horse called Warrior.

► **WARRIOR**, The Amazing Story Of A Real Warhorse is published by Racing Post Books and priced £14.99.



▲ **RESPECTED** Jack Seely with Winston Churchill

War Horse

went together, Warrior's nose nearly touching the tank. Then misfortune befell the adventure, for with a frightful bang the bridge collapsed and the tank fell through into the canal. Warrior and I nearly fell in too. There was a good deal of rifle fire around and many of the horses behind us were hit but Warrior's luck held and although he was the leading horse, he escaped without a scratch."

Then on March 30, 1918, his life and

Jack's were ultimately on the line. The Germans had broken through and they threatened Amiens with the Allied Fifth Army in ragged retreat.

Jack Seely with a thousand men of the Canadian Cavalry behind him decided desperate times needed desperate measures and set to gallop his men and horses across open ground to storm the enemy in Moreuil Wood.

To do this a 20-man signal group would

first have to lead the way. The officer in charge would normally be a young (and disposable) lieutenant. But Jack Seely, a former Cabinet Minister tough enough to row in the local lifeboat was no shrinking violet. Nor, most certainly, was Warrior.

"He was determined to go forward" wrote Grandpa in his old-fashioned way.

"There was, of course, a hail of bullets and perhaps half of us were hit but Warrior cared for nothing. His one idea

was to get at the enemy. He almost buried his head in the brushwood when we reached the wood at the chosen spot."

Hundreds of horses died that day, over eight million horses and mules perished in the war. But Warrior was more than just a survivor. He was a four legged inspiration whose legend should never die.

The film makes much of how thousands of now unwanted horses were auctioned off in France at the end of the war. Such

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