

GUS THE HORSE BOER WAR GALLERY



Teacher's Notes

Name of Object: *Gus – the Horse*

Category: *Animals/transport/Boer War*

Physical Location: *Boer War Gallery – National Army Museum*

Accession Number

Facts

- Between 1899 and 1902 the New Zealand Army participated overseas in armed conflict for the first time.
- This was the Second Anglo – Boer War
- Approximately 6600 men and 8800 horses in ten contingents sailed to South Africa.
- Only one horse, “Major” the personal mount of Major Robin, Commanding Officer of the 1st Contingent, is known to have returned to New Zealand.

Possible Activities

- Tsetse flies were the reason horses weren't returned to New Zealand. Find out why a
- mosquito sized fly stopped 8800 horses returning to New Zealand.
- Why were New Zealand volunteers such good horsemen and soldiers during the Boer War?

Links

- www.armymuseum.co.nz

- “Rough Riders at War” by Richard Stowers. An easy-to-read book about New Zealand’s involvement in the Boer War.
- “With Honour – our army, our nation, our history” by Richard Wolfe ISBN 978-0-67-004565-5

Physical Location

Gus is located in the Boer War Gallery on the upper display floor of the National Army Museum.

CHOCOLATES
NEW YEARS GIFT FROM QUEEN VICTORIA 1899/1900
BOER WAR GALLERY



Teacher’s Notes

Name of Object: *Commemorative box of chocolates*

Category: *Memorabilia, Royalty, Boer War*

Physical Location: *Souvenir cabinet, Boer War Gallery, National Army Museum*

Accession Number

Facts

- To celebrate New Year 1899-1900 Queen Victoria presented each British or Imperial soldier involved in the Anglo- Boer War a commemorative tin of chocolates.
- Many soldiers just ate the chocolates and disposed of the tin.
- Several soldiers however, realising that the tin was a present from the queen and therefore possibly valuable, either in monetary or souvenir value, sent their present’s home to family for safekeeping.
- The tin foil wrapping has helped preserve the chocolate for over 100 years.

Possible Activities

- Find out more about Queen Victoria, How long did she reign, did she have children.
- Queen Victoria was responsible for designing and setting the requirements for winning our highest decoration – the Victoria Cross. What did Corporal Apiata do to win a Victoria Cross?
- What type of food do soldiers have during war? How is it preserved so that it remains reasonably edible for them?

Links

- www.armymuseum.co.nz
- “Willie Apiata VC – The Reluctant Hero” by Paul Little ISBN Number 978-0-670073207
- “With Honour –our army, our nation, our history” by Richard Wolfe ISBN 978-0-67-004565-5

Physical Location

The boxes of chocolate can be found in the souvenirs cabinet in the Boer War Display gallery, directly opposite Gus the Horse, on the upper floor of the National Army Museum in Waiouru.