



# GET WRITING!

## Write your own newspaper WW2 article

Your task is to write your own article about a WW2 animal hero. First, revise how a newspaper article is put together...

A. Have a read of this animal newspaper article and answer the questions

The **headline** sums up the story. Sometimes it uses alliteration e.g. 'Heroic Horse' to grab your attention. Or there could be a play on words or pun e.g. the WW1 story 'Earning their wings' about heroic RAF pigeons...

The **photo** helps to tell the story.

The main **body** of the article is made up of paragraphs. Each new paragraph gives you new details about the story.

What information do you learn in each of the six paragraphs that make up the **main body** of this article?

The journalist varies the words used to start sentences in order to make the text non repetitive and more interesting to read.

**List 4** words the writer uses to vary the **sentence openers**.

The **lead** summarises the story in a sentence and answers the main facts (5 Ws: Who? What? Why? Where? When?) of the story. Which of the 5 Ws are in this lead?

# Meet Rob the parachuting dog!

**22 January 1945**

A PARACHUTING collie dog called Rob has been awarded the PDSA Dickin medal.



Rob took part in landings during the North African Campaign with an infantry unit. He later served with a Special Air Unit in Italy as patrol and guard dog for small units hiding in enemy territory.

Those who awarded Rob the medal said: "His presence with these parties saved many of them from discovery and subsequent capture or destruction. Rob made over 20 parachute descents."

An **adjective** is a word which describes a noun and gives the story more information e.g. '**Small units**'. Underline the interesting adjectives:

- Enemy territory
- A parachuting dog
- Patrol and guard dog





## GET WRITING!

### Write your own newspaper WW2 article

B. How well do you know some key features of a newspaper article?

Answer the questions on 'The pigeon that saved a RAF bomber crew' and 'Medals for hero animals'.

## The pigeon that saved an RAF bomber crew

**25 February 1942**

**WINKIE, a carrier pigeon, has saved a crew after they ditched into the North Sea two days ago.**

The RAF crew were returning from a mission over Norway but their Beaufort bomber had been hit by enemy fire and crashed into the sea more than 100 miles from home.

The four men thought they would die but they managed to release their secret weapon – a carrier pigeon called Winkie. Winkie was set free in the hope that she could fly home and alert the air base about what had happened.

After flying 120 miles, Winkie made it home. She was exhausted and covered in oil. Owner George Ross immediately informed RAF Leuchars in Fife.

A rescue team set off and found the crew within 15 minutes.

Winkie has become the toast of the air base, with a dinner held in her honour.



## Medals for hero animals

**1943**

**MARIA Dickin CBE, founder of animal charity the PDSA, says animals should also get medals for their war actions.**

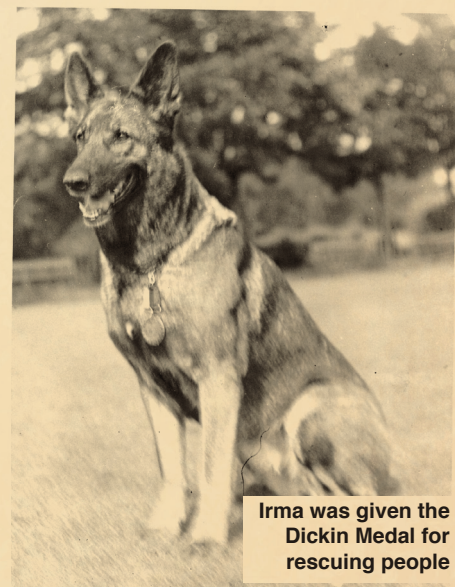
Maria says she is aware of the incredible bravery displayed by animals on active service and on the Home Front.

Announcing her special medal for animals in war, she said: "I am inspired by the animals' devotion to man and duty."

The Dickin Medal is a large, bronze medallion bearing the words "For Gallantry" and "We Also Serve", all within a laurel wreath. The ribbon is striped green, dark brown and pale blue, representing water, earth and air to symbolise the naval, land and air forces.



Maria Dickin



Irma was given the Dickin Medal for rescuing people



Learning through news

[www.firstnews.co.uk/forschools](http://www.firstnews.co.uk/forschools)



# GET WRITING!

## Write your own newspaper WW2 article

1. Highlight, draw a circle around, or write down the **lead** of 'The pigeon that saved an RAF bomber crew'.

2. How many of the **5 Ws** (facts) can you find in the 'Medals for hero animals' lead?

Who?

.....

What?

.....

Where?

.....

When?

.....

Why?

.....

3. The **adjective** 'war' is used to describe the time when the animals showed bravery and so gives us more information in the 'Medals for hero animals' lead. Can you add at least one interesting / informative adjective to the **lead** of 'The pigeon that saved an RAF bomber crew'?

Winkie, a carrier pigeon, has saved a crew after they ditched into the North Sea two days ago.

4. List 3 different **sentence openers** from each article:

'The pigeon that saved an RAF bomber crew'

'Medals for hero animals'

e.g. The

● .....

● .....

● .....

5. Can you rewrite the **headline** for either 'Meet Rob the parachuting dog' or 'The pigeon that saved an RAF bomber crew' or 'Medals for hero animals'. ? If you can, try to use alliteration or a pun.

.....

.....

.....

.....



## GET WRITING!

### Write your own newspaper WW2 article

**C. Now it's your turn! Write about WW2 animal hero, White Vision, the pigeon!**

#### NEWS JOURNALIST CHALLENGE:

Pigeon, White Vision, helped to save the crew of the flying boat, Catalina, that had to ditch in the sea during very bad weather in 1943.

How would this heroic feat be told in a newspaper to tell the story to the public?

You are the journalist and this is your challenge!

#### JOURNALIST NOTES FOR REPORT:

**Here's some background information to help you write your article:**

- A pigeon called White Vision.
- One morning in October 1943 at 0820 hours - Catalina flying boat had to ditch in the sea, near the Scottish Hebrides' islands.
- Rescue was hard because the weather and seas were bad, including mist.
- White Vision flew 60 miles with a headwind of 25 miles per hour, the bird could only see a few hundred yards ahead in the bad weather.
- At 1700 hours White Vision came back to the RAF airbase pigeon loft.
- She had with her the message of where the aircraft was in the sea.
- The crew were then rescued.
- She got a Dickin medal (animal award for bravery) on 2nd December 1943 for 'delivering a message under exceptionally difficult conditions and so contributing to the rescue of an aircrew'.
- 200,000 pigeons were used as messengers in WW2.





# GET WRITING!

Write your own newspaper WW2 article

Handwriting practice area with 20 horizontal dotted lines on a light brown background with a decorative zig-zag border.

