

Bison Family
Hasturton Farm
E Ham Valley
Kent

The Old War Office Building,

Lord Kitchener

Whitchamell,

London

SW1A 2EU

Tuesday 18th April 1916

Dear Lord Kitchener,

I am writing to inform you that the way you are treating horses absolutely horrifies me. Ever since the news revealed how many of these courageous creatures are being mistreated by the army, I have felt deeply troubled. Thousands of horses perish every single week and the thought of such suffering fills me with overwhelming dread. How have you allowed this to happen? Is this truly what humanity has become - so careless towards life and compassion? This injustice cannot be ignored any longer; it must come to an end.

I understand that horses play a significant role in the war effort as over 240,000 have already been shipped to France and Belgium. In addition, the production of new vehicles is limited due to the funds being channelled into the cost of war. Because of this, I can see why these fainting animals are relied upon. They carry wounded soldiers to hospitals, transport ammunition and charge into battle. Furthermore, soldiers alone cannot move such heavy loads - their main duty is to fight. However, despite the horses' importance, they are dying enormous numbers. This is not only due to machine-gun fire but mainly because of starvation, harsh weather, exhaustion and untreated wounds that lead to

deadly infections. These animals are living creatures, created by God, and they deserve far greater care and respect.

Every time I hear about horses dying during cavalry charges, I feel devastated. When they are sent towards machine guns, these defenceless animals have no chance to protect themselves and are slaughtered within moments. It has even been reported that over 140,000 horses were killed within just two weeks of charges, showing how dangerous these tactics truly are. In addition, as horses cannot always see barbed wire, they often suffer deep wounds that leave them unable to walk when they become trapped or entangled. These helpless creatures should not be perishing in such a cruel way - do you truly care about their lives?

My family members fighting on the Western Front have also described how these animals are being treated and it has truly broken my heart. Horses are forced to carry extremely heavy artillery across rough and muddy terrain for hours without rest, leading to starvation and painful deaths from exhaustion. Furthermore, constant shelling destroys the grass, leaving them with nothing to eat, while food supplies are often insufficient. As a result, many horses starve. In addition to this, when heavy rain turns the ground into thick mud, the enemy sometimes creates hidden traps, causing terrible injuries when the animals become stuck of fall. Their wounds then become infected as bacteria spreads rapidly in these harsh conditions.

According to reports, over 700,000 horses and mules have been sent to the front lines across Europe and parts of Asia. Do you truly believe this is acceptable? These animals are also essential at home, where they plough fields and help farmers collect crops. Without them, food is left unharvested and rot in the fields. Statistics already show that crop production has fallen by 45%, which means there will be less food for both citizens and soldiers. How are we expected to survive if we cannot

feed our own people?

I apologise if my words seem harsh, but this situation must be addressed. These majestic mammals need better care. Horses should still be used when necessary, but only under proper conditions, including sufficient food, regular rest and access to veterinary care. I urge you to act urgently, or the consequences will be felt by both the army and the people of Britain.

Yours sincerely

Tamara L