

Monday 27th April 2026

Use features of formal letter writing

Hawthorne Farm  
Elham Valley  
Kent  
CT4 6UJ

Monday 27th April 1915

Dear Lord Kitchener,

I am writing to you to tell you that what you have chosen to do is heartless; I feel as though you do not know what these precious horses have to go through in this awful war. I understand that having these faithful creatures is crucial to win this war but the increasing numbers of horses being harmed is atrocious and shameful. Do you really want all of England's horses to die and become extinct?

I understand that you feel that horses have many uses and are a vital part of the war effort to help and support our heroic soldiers on the front line. Not only this but, horses are needed to carry injured soldiers, transport large guns and ride into battles as we can not rely on cars as they can easily get stuck in the mud. In addition, I can see that these wonderful creatures are strong, muscular and fearless making them an important part of the war. On the other hand, these magnificent creatures are dying as we speak - not just from enemy fire, but due to the terrible, cold, wet conditions and diseases. Whatever benefits you are getting from these horses is far less important than their health and well-being.

It is becoming pretty obvious that this war is not going to end any time soon and that the conditions these beautiful creatures and humans are in are worsening. The amount of defenseless animals that have perished since the outbreak of this gruesome war is diabolical. In just one cavalry charge, it was said that only 4 out of 100 horses survived. Do you even know what they have to go through every single day?

As our Lord Commander, you probably do not see the suffering these majestic animals have to endure. Well, you should know it is unacceptable! It was reported that 3 times as many horses have perished from the lack of shelter, diseases and exposure than the brutal enemy attacks. It has been said that many of our British horses have died from malnourishment already. Well, if you really want these precious animals to help win the war, then surely you should provide them with enough food and shelter in order for them to fulfil their duties to their fullest. You must do something about these, before it is too late.

As you already know, most of our British horses, in fact 700,000 have already been sent to help with the war, at the front line. Have you even considered how many that is? If you keep taking more and more of these precious creatures, then we will not have enough to help plough the crops on the farms, which could result in human starvation. Also, the more horses you take the less horses there will be left in England; eventually there will be none left. If the worst happens, how on earth will we have enough food for every one to eat? You may be trying to protect our country, but you are actually destroying it!

I understand that this letter has come as a shock to you, however I need you to know that what you are doing is completely unacceptable and you need to do something about it now! An alternative is, you could go back to asking the owners for permission to take their horses. This way, the people that have these beautiful animals will have a choice if they want to send them to the front line. With this solution, you will have some horses and we will have some back in Britain. I truly hope you have listened to the information in this letter and will help these defenceless creatures to live better lives, as it would break my heart seeing even more dying in pain. Their venerable lives are in your hands.

Your sincerely,

Lailah Wood.