

WORLD WAR 1

Jack and Warrior went straight into battle and spent the next four years together at war on the Western Front. Initially Jack became a runner or "galloper" for Sir John French liaising between the British expeditionary force and the French Army.

Jack wanted his own command and was placed in charge of the newly formed Canadian Cavalry Brigade. Mechanised trench warfare was a horrific environment for both men and horses. The static nature of the western front meant that until Jan 1916 General Seely and his cavalry were deployed as infantry in the battles of Festubert and Givenchy.

In July 1916, for the Allied Somme offensive, Jack's Brigade joined massed ranks of cavalry that were reformed ready to exploit the 'Gap in the Line' that never materialised.

In support of the tank led Cambrai attack in 1917, a total of 27,000 cavalry were waiting in reserve. For part of the advance Jack and Warrior followed a leading tank. However, cavalry action was limited to a Canadian Garry's squadron charging German machine guns and an artillery battery for which their leader Lt Strachan was awarded the Victoria Cross.

A second VC was won in 1917 by Lt Harvey when Jack's cavalry rapidly captured French villages as the Germans made their strategic withdrawal to the Hindenburg Line.

Jack's eldest son, Lt Frank Seely, fighting with the Hampshires, sadly died in 1917, near Arras.

Warrior was renowned for his bravery and steadfastness, surviving numerous close encounters over four years of warfare. He was adopted as an unofficial mascot by the Canadian cavalrymen.

THE BATTLE OF MOREUIL WOOD

Spring 1918 saw the Germans advance, 45 kilometres between the British and French armies. They threatened the strategic railhead at Amiens. The Canadian Cavalry Brigade was able to move rapidly to help check the German threat at Moreuil Wood on the ridge overlooking the town.

On the 30th March, General Seely and Warrior led his signal squadron to the edge of Moreuil Wood as pathfinders for the rest of the Brigade. The Canadian Cavalry both mounted and on foot, with support from

Royal Flying Corps planes, engaged in sustained and grisly hand to hand fighting with the German 101st Grenadiers. The Brigade won its third VC, awarded to Lt Flowerdew who led a charge of 100 troopers against a group of 300 retiring German infantry. Eventually the woods were cleared of Germans, and the Canadians who had suffered casualties as high as 25% of the men.

Two days later the position had been reversed and Jack was given command of a mixed group of cavalry to take the woods again. Over a period of seven days Moreuil Wood exchanged hands five times as the Allies stopped the German army reaching Amiens.

Thankfully, the Battle of Moreuil Wood was one of warfare's last major cavalry engagements.

During these actions Warrior became lame and Jack was gassed while rescuing one of his men. Jack was invalided home but Warrior remained at war. However they were later reunited to serve to the end of hostilities.

AFTER THE WAR

Returning to the Isle of Wight at the end of 1918, Warrior became a local hero and then went on to win The Lightweight Race at the Isle of Wight Point to Point on March 30th, 1922, exactly four years on from that heroic day in France. He was ridden that day by young Jim Jolliffe, who had known him as a foal.

Warrior became quite a celebrity and was visited by Winston Churchill, and Queen Mary. The local schoolchildren would cheer when they saw Warrior.

Warrior died in 1941 at the exceptional age of 33 yrs. The Times had an obituary "The horse the Germans could not kill". Like Jack, he was fearless and gentle.

Between the wars Jack Seely continued to contribute to public life, including helping set up the Royal Air Force and our National Savings Organisation. The then Lord Mottistone died in 1947 at the age of 79 yrs.

MODERN TIMES

This new trail has been created by the Isle of Wight to highlight and honour the contribution made by this special war horse - a courageous thoroughbred raised on the island. In 2014, 100 years after Warrior went to war on the Western Front, he was awarded the PDSA Dickin medal, recognised as the animals' Victoria Cross and honouring all the animals that served in the Great War.

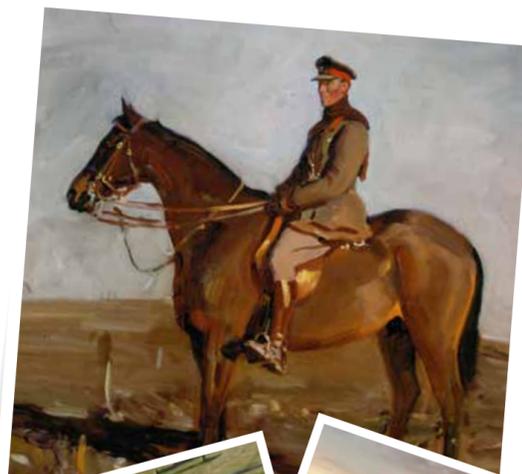
Jack and Warrior returned home on Christmas Day 1918.

SIR ALFRED MUNNINGS, WAR ARTIST

Munnings was known as one of England's finest painters of horses. His talent was employed in his position as war artist to the Canadian Cavalry Brigade, under the patronage of Max Aitken in the latter part of the war.

During the war, he painted many scenes, the first being a mounted portrait of General Jack Seely and Warrior in 1918. Munnings worked on this canvas a few thousand yards from the German front lines. When General Seely's unit was forced into a hasty withdrawal, the artist discovered what it was like to come under shellfire.

Munnings also painted Charge of Flowerdew's Squadron in 1918 in what is known as "the last great cavalry charge" at the Battle of Moreuil Wood.



A beautiful statue of Warrior can be seen at Carisbrooke Castle. Commissioned by the Seely family from celebrated equine sculptor, Philip Blacker, the half size bronze depicts General Jack Seely astride his faithful Warrior. It has been loaned to English Heritage by the family for the duration of the First World War centenary, and is located in the Princess Beatrice garden, adjacent to the Chapel of St Nicholas which has served as the Isle of Wight's war memorial since after the First World War.

WARRIOR THE WAR HORSE

EARLY DAYS

Jack Seely was a true adventurer. He grew up at Brook, and on one occasion, at the age of nine, fell 100 feet from the local cliffs and was fortunate to land on the turf that had collapsed from the cliff edge.

He joined the local lifeboat team and was involved in a daring rescue in 1891. The "Henri et Leontine" weathered Atherfield Ledge, but then ran aground at the top of the water to the east of Brooke Chine. An attempt to launch the lifeboat was unsuccessful. Jack Seely, then 23 years old, swam out to the wreck with a line. He helped the captain, who, on impact, had been scalped by the bulwarks, and together with Tom Hookey, the Brook blacksmith, rigged a breeches buoy to get the captain ashore. The rest of the crew were helped ashore as the tide receded. For his efforts Jack Seely received the French gold medal of honour.

He joined the Hampshire Yeomanry in 1900 and fought in the Boer War. He took his white horse Maharaja whom he dyed brown as camouflage. Jack Seely was awarded the DSO medal.

He entered Parliament as MP for the Isle of Wight in 1901, along with his friend Winston Churchill. They both joined the army reform group. In 1912 he became Secretary of State for War. But in 1913, disaster struck when his wife, Emily Crichton, died in childbirth leaving seven children. He resigned from the ministerial post over the Ulster Home rule crisis.

Jack had obtained a thoroughbred horse Cinderella, she was a gentle horse and followed him wherever he went. In 1908, she had a foal at Yafford who was to be named Warrior in anticipation of potential cavalry duties. Jack took Warrior to the beach where the horse was trained to the impending sound of gun-fire by being walked into sea amongst the roaring sound of the breaking waves

ON THE ISLE OF WIGHT

ADVENTURES
101 GREAT

JUST ONE OF

Isle of Wight
WARRIOR TRAIL



EXPLORE
THE
WARRIOR
TRAIL

Isle of
Wight

Isle of
Wight



"VisitEngland is pleased to officially recognise the Warrior Trail, which will encourage visitors to explore the Isle of Wight's beautiful landscape - and learn about one of the most inspiring stories of heroism to emerge from World War 1. Anyone visiting and walking, cycling or riding this route will be in for an incredible experience that will leave indelible memories and VisitEngland is delighted to offer its support."
James Berresford, CEO VisitEngland

The Warrior Trail is a circular route through Brook, Mottistone and Brighthstone celebrating the life of Warrior the Warhorse, who grew up on the Isle of Wight.

A longer walk from Mottistone to Carisbrooke Castle is also highly recommended (approx. 6.5 miles).

For information on where to stay, local inns and things to see and do please go to www.visitislofthewight.co.uk.

Hire bicycles to explore the Warrior Cycle Trail from nearby Wight Cycle Hire (Yarmouth), Call 01983761800 or go to www.wightcyclehire.co.uk

You can reach the Warrior Trail by bus route 12. For full details go to www.islandbuses.info or call 01983 827000.



WARRIOR TRAIL (FOOTPATH) WAY MARKERS

- 1 FIVE BARROWS**
Ancient burial mounds past which Warrior would gallop
- 2 SIDLING PAUL FIELD**
Where young Warrior spent his early days 1908-10
- 3 BROOK CHURCH**
Nim, Jack Seely's first wife, was buried here in 1913
- 4 BROOK HOUSE**
Jack Seely and Warrior based here until 1925
- 5 BROOK HILL HOUSE**
Built in 1911/13 by Sir Charles Seely, Jack's father
- 6 BROOK**
Warrior shod by David Hookey, the Brook blacksmith
- 7 LIFEBOAT STATION**
Brook Lifeboat part of village life, Jack rowed in the boat
- 8 MOTTISTONE CHURCH**
Jack Seely's ashes and memorial in the side chapel
- 9 MOTTISTONE MANOR**
Home for Jack and Warrior until Warrior's death in 1941 and Jack's in 1947
- 10 THE LONGSTONE**
Neolithic ceremonial worshipping stones
- 11 BRIGHSTONE**
Local village where Warrior was local hero
- 12 YAFFORD**
Warrior's birthplace in 1908



CARISBROOKE CASTLE

For a castle that has lived through more than 800 years of service, including resisting a siege by the French and seeing off the Spanish Armada, Carisbrooke Castle is wonderfully well preserved. At the heart of the island's history, the castle is where King Charles I was imprisoned. There are all the ingredients here for a great value family day out on the Isle of Wight. Children will love dressing up as Norman soldiers or Civil War troopers, and meeting the castle's famous donkeys. While for the grown-ups, there is a fascinating museum which currently houses a dedicated WW1 exhibition, and the Edwardian-style Princess Beatrice Garden with its statue of the war-horse, Warrior.

During August the castle is the backdrop to an action-packed events programme. Enjoy Grand Medieval Jousts with knights battling on horseback and tournaments where knight clash in hand-to-hand combat. Kids can also go on a quest around the castle. For further details and opening times go to www.english-heritage.org.uk/carisbrookecastle



8 THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER & ST. PAUL, MOTTISTONE

Here, Jack Seely's ashes lie in front of the altar in the Cheke Chapel. The chapel is notable for the unusual use of oak. The pews are made from oak and the whole chapel is enclosed by a parclose screen of oak, around the top of which is a long Latin inscription which is a memorial to General Jack Seely. One small section reads "Much gifted, he lavished his talents in the service of all men. Wise in counsel and vigorous in action, his simple gaiety and imperturbable courage were the inspiration of many, and his loving kindness the delight of children". The parclose screen was designed by John Seely, the architect son of Jack, in memory of his father. John Seely became the second baron and was surveyor to the fabric of St. Paul's Cathedral. There is an inscription in south porch to the memory of John and Evelyn, Lady Mottistone.



3 ST. MARY THE VIRGIN CHURCH, BROOK

The 13th century church was almost totally destroyed by fire in December 1862 when a new gallery made from Cedar wood, caught fire. The wood had been salvaged from the wreck of the ship Cedarine. The church was rebuilt on the same site, reproducing the original gothic style.

Jack Seely will always be remembered locally for the outstanding part he played as a member and coxswain of Brook Lifeboat. Lifeboats had to be rowed and sailed and accomplished incredible feats of bravery. 381 lives were saved between the years of 1860 to 1937, and there are painted boards in the church recording rescues and showing appreciation of the lifeboat crews.

Opposite the church is a field called Sidling Paul where Warrior spent his young days.



THE SEELY FAMILY AT BROOK & MOTTISTONE

Charles Seely was born in 1803 of modest Lincolnshire millers, but by the time of his death in 1887 was one of the largest landowners in the country. He owned much of West Wight. He bought Brook House in 1857 and a number of other properties in the area. Charles and his wife Mary enlarged the house. Each of their three daughters settled in the Isle of Wight. Charles Seely set up the County Library service, a local school and the Lifeboat Station. Charles' son Sir Charles Seely, built Brook Hill House both for the views and because he had bronchial trouble and was advised to live higher up. The house was built in 1910 and has features similar to Dartmouth College. Sir Charles had nine children and over 50 grandchildren. Sir Charles left the Brook estate to his son General Jack Seely MP. Jack moved to Mottistone Manor in 1926 and sold Brook House to his brother.