

Artist Mark Wilson



Artwork

Stretcher bearers, 2012, from *Digger-The Dog Who Went to War*, (by Mark Wilson Publisher Lothian/Hachette)

colour pencil and watercolour

Information from Mark Wilson

Almost all my family stories touch on war at some stage. My father was a pilot in the RAAF in WW2. He then served in Japan, Papua New Guinea and Vietnam. My grandfather was a 'boy soldier' in the First World War. He was only 16 when he went with his three brothers to fight in France (My Mother's Eyes – the Story of a Boy Soldier; and Digger – the Dog Who Went to War). In all my books, I use a lot of old photos as reference. Many are quite personal... In Digger – the Dog Who Went to War, I used my own dog Kouta as the model, as he was a silky Terrier, just like Digger in the story. Kouta died last Christmas, so the book is not only a tribute to all the animals that have gone to war, but also a tribute to my old mate.

Studying

Official Australian War Artists play a significant role in Australia's interpretation of its wartime history. George Lambert, Leslie Hore, Louis Vasco and Norman Lindsay made drawings, watercolours, paintings and propaganda posters depicting the First World War. Research their artwork;

George Lambert <https://anzacportal.dva.gov.au/multimedia/publications/curiositystories-those-who-report-during-wartime/eye-detail-george-lambert>

Leslie Hore <https://anzacportal.dva.gov.au/history/conflicts/gallipoli-and-anzacs/resources/artist-gallipoli-%E2%80%93-major-hore>

Louis Vasco <https://ww1.sl.nsw.gov.au/stories/louis-vasco>

Norman Lindsay <https://nga.gov.au/Greatwar/Propaganda.cfm>

Making

Many animals befriended ANZAC soldiers during World War One from pigeons, cats, dogs, horses, mules, monkeys camels, even kangaroos and wallabies. Imagine you are an ANZAC soldier serving in World War One. Which animal would take for companionship during such a difficult time. Create a drawing of you and your animal friend.