

## HOW DO YOU FIND OUT WHAT YOUR FAMILY DID IN WW1?

### What Matt found out: Video transcript

My great-granddad was a mule man in World War One. And he was here in France at the Battle of Arras in 1917.

I want to get some sense of what it would have been like to walk in his shoes. Now these are replicas of World War One boots made to the original design and I am going to try out these size nines. Goodness me! You know your instinct is to put on a nice pair of comfy socks or even shove in the inner soles from these boots, but I'm going to try and make it as authentic as possible.

Tommy had two mules Nelly and Nancy. Today I've got Loretta and Lolita. So this is where my great-granddad would have wandered along here, no doubt chatting away like this, to his Nelly and Nancy.

[To the mules] Come on, let's keep going.

It is the strangest feeling to be here. Sometimes you just... Brakes are on.

[To the mules] Let's back off. A little frightened of the camera?

I'm getting a sense of how men and their mules often formed incredible bonds. I have a feeling of protection here and I just cannot imagine what it must have been like with shells firing and bombs going off. But huddled in here, you know, I'm sure that Tommy felt almost protected by his two mules

The connection that Tommy must have got with Nelly and Nancy must have been so, so strong and it does give me some kind of comfort that whatever was going on around him and however horrific what he was seeing actually was, you know that gives you some kind of... yeah, I suppose, relief.

[To the mules] Come on then.

Being here and, you know, just walking across the land in the same way that my great-grandfather did, you just want to go back and say I've stood there with two mules where he did.

[To the mules] There we are. Thanks for that.