

Youth Remember Canada's Mission in Afghanistan

Hughes the Donkey Helps

People might think that animals would not be much help to soldiers in today's high-technology world, but sometimes the old ways are still the best!

More than 40,000 Canadians have served in Afghanistan from 2001 to 2014, trying to bring peace and help the people there recover after years of troubles. It was a very hard place for our soldiers to work. Much of the country is very mountainous, sometimes making it challenging to transport things even with four-wheel-drive trucks!

Hughes the donkey was bought there by Canadian Armed Forces engineers to help carry their equipment while on patrol. They often had to move big loads through harsh terrain, so the help of the small-but-mighty Hughes was much appreciated. Plus just seeing the cute little donkey put a smile on the soldiers' faces. Life was dangerous for the men and women who served in Afghanistan but animals like Hughes helped make their load just a little lighter.



Hughes the donkey and Canadian soldier in Afghanistan in 2008.
(Photo: James McCarten - Canadian Press 4610561)