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MICHAEL FOREMAN

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It's hard work being a soldier. Marching, marching every day, getting ready to go to war, but I'm told my country needs me.

This war is far away – the other side of the ocean – but soon we will have to cross that ocean and help to win it. We are woken up early every morning by a 'toot, toot, toot' on a bugle for yet another day of marching and shooting practice.

My favourite bugle call is the one that means, 'Grub's up! Come and get it!' The smell of cooking seems to attract all the stray dogs from miles around. One dog in particular seems to find me every time I settle down to my sausage and mash.

He is an odd little dog with a flat face and short legs. I decide to call him Stubby.