

On Friday 27th July 2018, The Royal Army Veterinary Corps celebrated the centenary of being awarded their Royal Warrant by King George V, following their outstanding efforts in treating animals used in combat during the First World War.

Based in Melton Mowbray, the celebrations involved an impressive parade of military riders on horseback and squads of marching soldiers through the town centre.

The Lord Lieutenant of Leicestershire Mike Kapur OBE was in attendance to join Major General Walker on the saluting Dais.

Mr Kapur said: "I'm really delighted to be here today to help the RAVC celebrate the centenary of their organisation.

"They do a tremendous amount of work in support of all those animals that assist the troops on the frontline."

The Royal Army Veterinary Corp train and care for animals used by the military and has been centred in Melton Mowbray for over 200 years.

Major General Roland Walker said: "Today is a really good opportunity to reflect on a hundred years of the Royal Charter of the Army Veterinary Corp, itself bestowed by the King in Recognition of the work that the Corp did during the First World War."

He added: "What is really important here and what is particularly special about the Army Veterinary Corp is the association it has with Melton Mowbray. Through the remount centre and through the defence animal centre there is a great sense of pride the community has for the troops here."

Huge crowds gathered to watch the parade of soldiers in First World War uniforms, military dogs and the Band of the Army Medical Services.

One of Melton's own, Nicola Evans, was watching with her family, she said: "It's always nice to see isn't it? I think it's one of those things that makes you feel proud to be British."

Joining her and eagerly watching with her two young sons was Samantha Dolby who had come from Sileby, she said: "You forget that it's here and because they're so busy, they keep themselves to themselves, so why not show it off?

"You can tell the kids the horses are the Queen's horses. You can be proud of who they are."

By Jake Olnier
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