



london
transport
museum

Barney's ADVENTURE



Barney's adventure

This story has been adapted from script written by London Transport Museum young volunteers; with thanks to Charlotte, Isho, Ryan, Sadeqah, Siobhan, Siyo.



london transport
museum **friends**

This is a story about Barney and Beatrice, the B-type buses, and their friend Pippa the pigeon. These three friends had an important job to do during the First World War, which began in 1914 and lasted until 1918.

We are in
Piccadilly Circus.

'Beep beep. Hello!'

said Barney.

'Beep! Hello!'

said Beatrice.

Every day, Barney
and Beatrice drove to
Trafalgar Square for
lunch and had a good
talk about all the sights
they had seen on their
travels in London.



One day they heard something that surprised them! A newspaper boy shouting

*'Extra extra, read all about it!
War is declared!'*

Then they overheard their drivers, engineers and conductors talking. The government had decided that London's B-type buses were to travel to France, Belgium and beyond to help carry soldiers and supplies to where they needed to go.



Hey Barney! Hey Beatrice! Have you heard?
said the drivers, *'Barney the B-type bus must
report for duty!'*

*'I'm ready for action!' said Barney,
'but who will stay in London and help
passengers get to where they need to go?
Someone has to keep London moving!'*

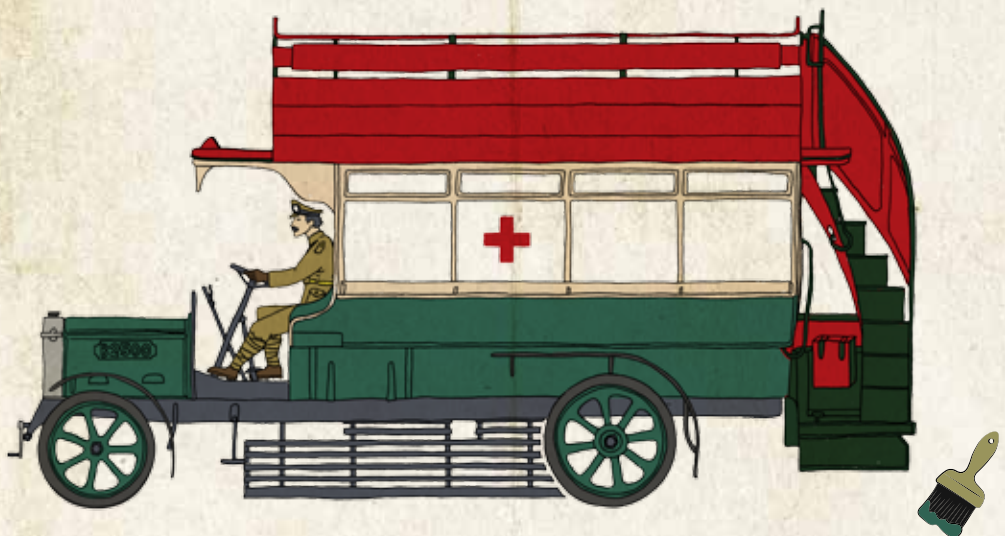
*'Oh Barney! I'd love to come with you, but
London needs me here' said Beatrice.*



Before Barney could make his brave journey, he had to get ready.

London buses are normally red. To make sure he could help the soldiers without being spotted he was painted a special military colour called khaki, which is a shade of green.

His driver and engineer painted him using big brushes so he would be ready to be loaded on a boat set for France.





Beatrice and Barney had to say goodbye.

'Barney, promise me that you'll send me a letter! Let me know that you are safe! I want to hear all about your adventures,' said Beatrice tearfully.



They tooted their horns goodbye.

'Beep! Beep!'

Barney slept on the boat and woke up in a place he did not recognise...France! Sadly there was no time to explore, he had to drive to Belgium and get to work right away!

Barney's job was to take injured soldiers to the medical tents to get help.



He was very busy and with so much going on Barney had forgotten his promise to write to Beatrice. He wrote Beatrice a letter straightaway, telling her all about his adventures in the war!

Dear Beatrice,

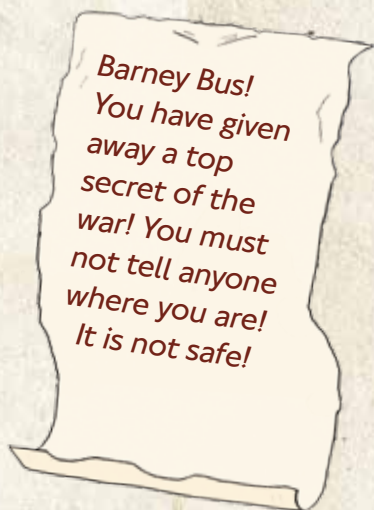
I am sorry I didn't write straightaway! I am in Belgium in a place called Ypres (it sounds like Eepre). It's important work helping all these soldiers, but I'm looking forward to one day coming back to London and being red again! Most of all, I can't wait to see you.

Love from, Barney

Back in London, Beatrice was missing Barney a lot. She was getting worried about him. She waited and waited and waited. But the letter he promised to send never came! What was taking him so long? Had it got lost in the post?



In Belgium Barney received a letter. He was very excited. He thought it must be from Beatrice. But when he looked on the envelope he could see it wasn't from London at all! It was from the Army Postal Service.



Barney wasn't allowed to let Beatrice know where he was! He was upset, he missed Beatrice so terribly that he started to cry!

Then he heard a noise that reminded him of Trafalgar Square!

'Coo Coo' it went.

What's that sound?

That's right it's a pigeon!



Pippa the
Pigeon!

'Hello Barney!' said Pippa

'I'm a special pigeon that delivers special secret messages. I'm afraid you must not write letters letting anyone know where you are. We have to keep it a secret to keep you safe. Don't worry though, I can still help you send a message to Beatrice using my special message carrier.'

Barney thanked pippa and gave her the message to Pippa who began her long journey to London to find Beatrice.

Pippa spotted Beatrice resting in
Trafalgar Square.

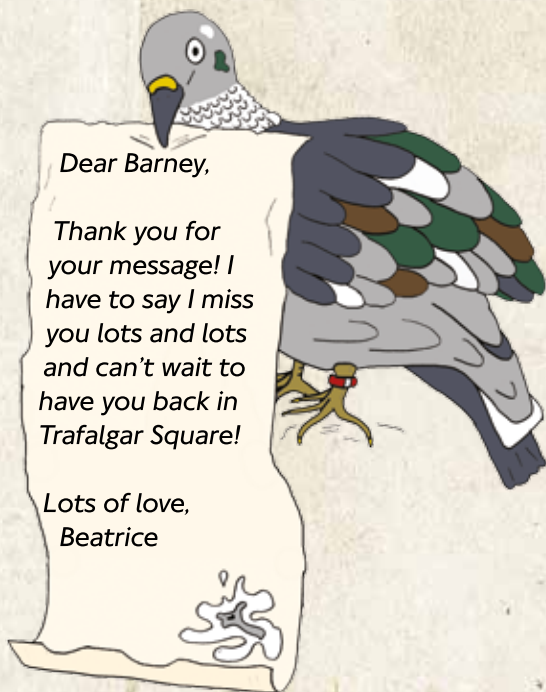
*'Hello Beatrice. I have a very special message
for you from Barney!'* cooed Pippa.

Beatrice was so relieved and grateful.

'Thank you Pippa' said Beatrice before writing
a quick message back to Barney and waving
goodbye to Pippa with her letter safely stored
in a tube on her foot.



Pippa got back to Barney safely and gave him Beatrice's message. It said...



Barney was very happy to have a message from Beatrice, but he still had work to do helping the soldiers. As he drove along, he was looking forward to the day when he could go home to London, see Beatrice, and help keep London moving once again.

