

Have a read of this World War One newspaper article that Mr Spencer has written. Unfortunately it doesn't quite make sense as it is written in the present tense. You must change it to past tense.

Earning their wings!



20 October 1917

CAUGHT up in the Battle of Passchendaele, British troops need to get an urgent signal back to their headquarters from the front line.

A messenger is sent but, shortly after setting off, he has come under fire.

Even though his leg is broken by a bullet, the messenger carries on and delivers the message. Sadly, he is dying the next day.

This heroic mission is carried out by a soldier but by a brave pigeon, known only as 2709, one of thousands training to fly back to base from the front line.

The birds are helping to save the lives of thousands of soldiers, with more than 95% getting their messages through. They are also shaping many key decisions in the war.

The king, George V, is even sending his own pigeons from the royal loft at Sandringham so that he can be updated on the progress of the war.

Anyone interfering with a homing pigeon during the war faces a £100 fine or six months in jail.