

 CASEMATE | ILLUSTRATED

MILITARY DOGS OF WORLD WAR II

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Animals, especially dogs, have served in all the wars since time immemorial. In WWII, most combatant nations employed dogs on the battlefield in a number of ways. Armed forces quickly discovered that different breeds of dogs were suited to different tasks. The U.S. Marine Corps, for example, preferred Doberman Pinschers, while larger breeds like Great Danes and Newfoundland's were used by German Mountain troops transport supplies. Training programs were developed to equip canines to undertake unique and complex tasks to aid their handlers, including jumping out of aircraft alongside their paratrooper trainers, ready to scout at the head of patrols as soon as they landed. Mascots and even family pets, also did their bit for the war effort, improving morale and providing comfort to their human companions. Their part was recognized by the creation of medals, including the British Dickin Gallantry Medal, presented to animals who provided outstanding service, gallantry, or devotion to duty.

This illustrated book recognizes and details the service of dogs like Rob, a Collie who made over 20 parachute jumps in North Africa, Imma, who detected people who had been buried alive at bombsites; and Barss, who would sniff out German sharpshooters for his Soviet handlers.

All the countries that were involved in WWII are included in this book, including the dogs in England who were part of the Civil Defense. The book also includes those special dogs who were untrained and privately owned who, on their own, rescued lost or wounded people.