



War Animals: The Unsung Heroes of World War II

Robin Hutton

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"This book will delight both animal lovers and military buffs!" — Elizabeth Letts, bestselling author of *The Eighty Dollar Champion*

Meet the forgotten members of the Greatest Generation: the war animals who guarded American coasts against submarine attack, dug out Londoners trapped in bomb wreckage, and carried vital messages under heavy fire on Pacific islands during World War II. They kept up morale, rushed machine gun nests, and even sacrificed themselves picking up live grenades.

Now Robin Hutton, the bestselling author of *Sgt. Reckless: America's War Horse*, tells the heartwarming stories of the dogs, horses, mules, pigeons—and even one cat—who did their bit for the war effort. American and British families volunteered beloved family pets and farm dogs to aid in the war effort; President Roosevelt was among many who bought honorary "commissions" in the reserves for their pets to raise money to defeat Hitler and Tojo. Many of these gallant animals are recipients of the prestigious Dickin Medal, the "Animals' Victoria Cross."

In *War Animals: The Unsung Heroes of World War II* you'll meet:

- Judy, the POW dog who helped her beloved human survive brutal Japanese prison camps
- Cher Ami, the pigeon who nearly died delivering a message that saved American troops from death by friendly fire
- Beauty, the "digging dog" who sniffed out Londoners buried in the wreckage of the Blitz—along with pets, including one goldfish still in its bowl!
- Olga, the horse who braved shattering glass to do her duty in London bombings
- Smoky, the Yorkshire terrier who did parachute jumps, laid communications wire through a pipe so small only she could navigate it, became the first therapy dog—and starred on a weekly TV show after the War
- Simon, the war cat whose campaign against the "Mao Tse Tung" of the rat world saved food supplies and his ship's crew
- Chips, who guarded Roosevelt and Churchill during the Casablanca Conference, and was the only dog to earn a Silver Star for his heroics

The shining loyalty and courage of these heroes is a testimony to the enduring bond between us and the animals we love.

War Animals: The Unsung Heroes of World War II Details

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Marlene Gumbiner says

What a fascinating read! This book can be enjoyed by such a wide swath of readers...from people who love history to animal lovers. The stories about the animals and birds that saved lives during the wars makes an amazing tale. The author obviously did an incredible amount of research in order to bring so many of these animal exploits to life.

Nissa says

This book is a must-read for everyone, but truly a must for animal lovers. The author speaks in detail the bravery of these animals and the stories of the many lives they saved. A great homage to all the War Animals of World War II. Highly recommend!

I received a free ebook download from a goodreads giveaway. Thank you so much. I loved it!

Kayla Tornello says

This book was really fascinating! I enjoyed learning about all the different ways animals were used in WWII. I liked that the author gave a general overview and then focused on individual animals. I hardly knew anything about pigeons before I read this book. I would definitely recommend this book to anyone who loves either animals or history.

I received this book as a Goodreads giveaway. Yay!

Mary says

This book chronicles some of the unsung (and sung) heroes of World War II, the animals who many times risked life and limb to save soldiers in the line of duty. The stories are engaging of these animals, where they came from, their training and the comrades they served beside. Amazing tales of bravery and sacrifice. This is a wonderful account of dogs, cats, horses and even pigeons! I highly recommend "War Animals" to anyone interested in this era as well as those who share the love of animals and the amazing things they have done in difficult circumstances.

Jamie says

Firstly, big thanks to Goodreads for me winning this book. Secondly, ow the puns. Seriously, ow.

Other than that, though, good book. I liked the somewhat impersonal style instead of being a stiff-necked history report. These were some impressive animals. I'd almost expect a sequel from the way the author teased other recipients of the Dickin medal if it weren't for the (much appreciated) Appendix briefly noting them already.

I have my usual complaints of having read a Kindle copy and would have preferred print, though this did seem more digitally integrated than other books I've experienced. It was easy to click the little numbers at the end of the sentence. Granted, more often it was a bibliography reference instead of an interesting note, but at least it was easy. Also, I was able to zoom in on some of the pictures.

All told, I was impressed with the writing and the animals. Almost made me want to have one, but, apologies to my children, still no.

Dayna says

As an animal-lover, I knew this would appeal to me. This is well-researched & a delight to read. While I was not surprised by the devotion animals show humans, I was very touched by the human soldiers' dedication to & love for their animals. I received a Kindle edition from a Goodreads giveaway.

Linda Munro says

I received an ARC copy of this book; unfortunately this copy does not include the pictures that will be in the upcoming completed edition.

I found this book fascinating. I had really never given a thought to war animals; I really felt that this was a story that needed to be told, I really cannot wait for the consumer copy to be released so that I can see the photographs that go along with the story.

This is a piece of history that no one pays attention to. I am positive that this would be a perfect history book for school children.

I think everyone should take a look at this book.

Brooke says

Great photos but the poor writing does little to honor these amazing animals and made this book incredibly disappointing. Way too many puns, "funny" or overly colloquial phrasing, unnecessary asides and obvious statements. The author also seemed to assume that readers were totally uninformed (for example, a single-sentence paragraph informing readers "it was January 1942—just a month after Pearl Harbor" appears only two pages after the attack date was explicitly stated). There were also two instances where names were replaced with 1) that of a different animal and 2) a surname never mentioned elsewhere in the book. The author drew from the list of Dickin Medal recipients, thus the book focuses on dogs (about 245 out of 360 pages) and Allied (mostly American) forces; the book might have been stronger if it only focused on these elements, as the brief sections on pigeons, horses, mules, and one cat come across as tacked-on afterthoughts.

Heather Rohrer says

I loved reading about war dogs and their deeds. Each profile of their accomplishments was descriptive and well-written. I skipped the bird section because I was not too interested. The other animal profiles were great too.

EJR says

Be prepared to cry your eyes out. Amazing stories, amazing animals, amazing people. I sort of wish it wasn't just focused on WWII and did a grander scope.
