

# Light a Lamp Light of Peace for the animals that served



Millions of animals were taken from family homes and farms to aid allied forces during WWII, so it is only fitting that those of us with much loved pets, should be encouraged to light a Lamp Light of Peace at 9.30pm on 8th May 2025, to 'shine a light' on the animals who also served, and once lit for this occasion, they can be

re-lit at 11am on 11th November in 'remembrance' for many years to come. (See page 12 of the Guide).

Horses, mules, and donkeys played a major role transporting troops, equipment, and valuable supplies in areas impenetrable by trucks. These animals worked on the front lines, with donkeys and mules undertaking vital jobs on the home front too, in industry and on farms working the land. In 1942, the British alone employed 6,500 horses.



Dogs played vital roles and carried out important duties, serving as watch dogs, guarding supplies, delivering messages and medical supplies, sniffing out land mines and alerting soldiers to the approach of enemy troops.

Judy, (far right) an English pointer, was a mascot of the Royal Navy. When her ship was torpedoed, Judy and the crew were captured by the Japanese and held as prisoners of war. She was adopted by

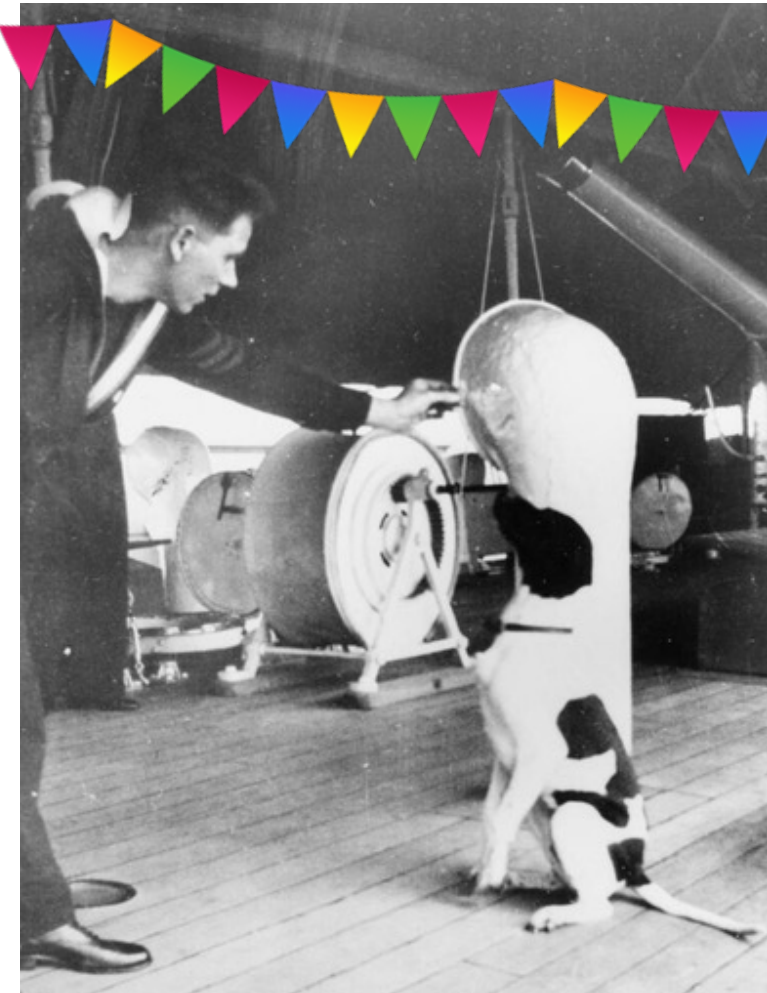


Leading Aircraftsman Frank Williams, who shared his meagre rations throughout their imprisonment, while she, in return, often left camp to bring back what food she could find for the starving men. The pair were liberated in 1945 and Judy was awarded the Dickin Medal - the animal equivalent of the Victoria Cross - for "magnificent courage and endurance."

Both sides used pigeons during World War II, particularly when traditional methods of communication were considered impractical or risky. The British military alone used over 200,000 homing pigeons, supplied by the National Pigeon Service. RAF bombers carried pigeons in special cases when traveling deep over enemy territory, so that they could get a message back to a rescue team if they were shot down and their radios damaged.

Gustav (pictured above) was one of the RAF's messenger pigeons and on June 4, 1944, carried back the first news from the D-Day landings in Normandy that the troops had landed, by flying more than 150 miles in just over five hours from the northern coast of France to his loft near Portsmouth. He too was awarded the Dickin Medal.

Dogs, cats, and even exotic animals boosted morale during the darkest days of the war. Cats would also hunt for vermin,



and soldiers in India and Burma quickly discovered that adopting a mongoose meant having not only a pet, but also a friend who would fight off poisonous snakes and alert them to the presence of enemies. Soldiers stationed in the western desert adopted an endearing creature called a jerboa, and these gregarious little pets were nicknamed 'Desert Rats' which is how the 7th Armoured Division got its nickname.