

Judy: The Hero Dog of the Second World War

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Judy: The Hero Dog of the Second World War

Judy the dog was famous for saving the lives of many British soldiers during the Second World War. She was given a medal for her bravery and she is the only dog to have been made an official prisoner of war.

Judy the Ship's Mascot

Judy was an English pointer, born in China in 1936 at the time of the Second World War. She was made a **mascot** for the Royal Navy ship, HMS Gnat.

The crew soon realised that Judy was special when she used her strong sense of hearing to warn them of approaching dangers, such as aircraft from the opposing armed forces and river pirates.

After HMS Gnat, Judy was transferred to HMS Grasshopper based in Singapore. However, this ship was attacked and it later sank. This left Judy and the survivors stranded for days on a nearby island. Luckily, Judy managed to save their lives by digging out fresh water below ground for them to drink. The survivors then walked for hundreds of miles until they reached the city of Padang in Sumatra. However, soon after arriving in Padang, the crew were captured by Japanese soldiers and they were made prisoners of war.

What Is a Prisoner of War?

Prisoners of war are people that have been captured by the opposition during a war. During the Second World War, over 190,000 people became prisoners of war in Japan. These people were sent to prison camps.



Did You Know...?

Many animals were made ships' mascots in times of war so that they could help to control pests, provide security and keep the crew company.

Judy protected the prisoners in the camp by distracting the guards. She also went searching for food for the prisoners to eat when they were hungry.



Judy the Prisoner of War

The crew managed to hide Judy under some sacks of rice so that they could bring her into the prison camp with them. At the camp, Judy formed a close bond with the British soldier Frank Williams after he shared his small **ration** of rice with her.

Frank managed to arrange for Judy to be made the first official animal prisoner of war. This meant that she was allowed to receive food rations, like the other prisoners.

When the Second World War ended in 1945, Judy and Frank were released. However, Frank needed to pay £12 in **quarantine** costs so that Judy could enter the UK. That was the equivalent of over £400 today. Luckily, many people offered to donate money to help cover the cost after hearing Judy's story.

In 1946, Judy was awarded the PDSA Dickin Medal for her devotion and bravery during the war. Judy's bark was also played on the radio across the world as part of celebrations to mark the end of the Second World War.

Judy lived until the age of 13 and she was buried with her RAF jacket and medals.

Remembering Judy

A book has been written about Judy's story. People can view her collar and medal at the Imperial War Museum in London.

The Royal Navy is arranging for a bronze statue of Judy to be positioned at North Wales Pet Cemetery.



Glossary

mascot: A person, animal or object that is meant to bring good luck.

quarantine: When a person or animal is placed in isolation to prevent the possible spread of infectious diseases.

ration: A fixed amount of something supplied to someone when there is a shortage.

Questions

1. Which year was Judy born in? Tick one.

- 1935
- 1936
- 1914
- 1933

2. Where did the crew hide Judy so that they could bring her into the prison camp? Tick one.

- under a pile of jackets
- under their seats
- under some sacks of rice
- in an empty box

3. List the names of the **two** ships that Judy was a mascot onboard.

- _____
- _____

4. Look at the section called **Judy the Ship's Mascot**.

Find and copy one word which means the same as 'left without being able to move anywhere'.

5. Fill in the missing word.

In 1946, Judy was awarded the PDSA _____ Medal for her devotion and bravery during the war.

6. Explain why you think that the Royal Navy is arranging for a bronze statue of Judy to be positioned at North Wales Pet Cemetery.

7. Look at the section of the text called **What Is a Prisoner of War?**

Why do you think that the author has included this in the text?

8. Sum up what you have learnt about Judy the dog.

Answers

1. Which year was Judy born in? Tick one.

- 1935
- 1936**
- 1914
- 1933

2. Where did the crew hide Judy so that they could bring her into the prison camp? Tick one.

- under a pile of jackets
- under their seats
- under some sacks of rice**
- in an empty box

3. List the names of the **two** ships that Judy was a mascot onboard.

- **HMS Gnat**
- **HMS Grasshopper**

4. Look at the section called **Judy the Ship's Mascot**.

Find and copy one word which means the same as 'left without being able to move anywhere'.
stranded

5. Fill in the missing word.

In 1946, Judy was awarded the PDSA **Dickin** Medal for her devotion and bravery during the war.

6. Explain why you think that the Royal Navy is arranging for a bronze statue of Judy to be positioned at North Wales Pet Cemetery.

Pupils' own responses, such as: They are probably making a statue of Judy because she was a remarkable dog with a fascinating story and she deserves to be remembered.

7. Look at the section of the text called **What Is a Prisoner of War?**

Why do you think that the author has included this in the text?

Pupils' own responses, such as: The author has probably included this information so that the reader can understand what a prisoner of war is because the subject plays an important role in Judy's story.

8. Sum up what you have learnt about Judy the dog.

Pupils' own responses, such as: Judy was an amazingly heroic and brave dog. She saved many lives during the Second World War through her actions. She was the only dog to be awarded the PDSA Dickin Medal and the only dog to be made an official prisoner of war.

Judy: The Hero Dog of the Second World War

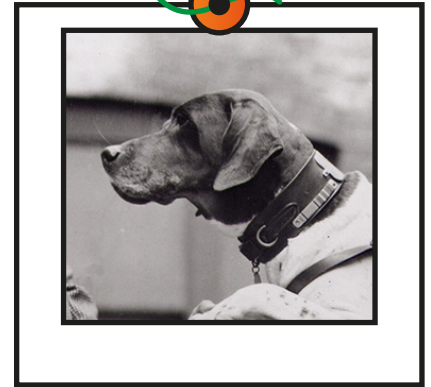
Judy the dog was famous for saving the lives of many British troops during the Second World War. She was awarded the PDSA Dickin Medal for her bravery. Judy is also known for being the only dog to be officially registered as a prisoner of war.

Judy the Ship's Mascot

Judy, an English pointer, was born in Shanghai, China in 1936. She was made a **mascot** onboard the Royal Navy ship, HMS Gnat during the Second World War.

Animals, such as dogs, were often made ship's mascots as they would help to control pests, provide security and act as a companion for those onboard. The ship's crew soon realised that Judy had special qualities when her strong sense of hearing warned them of approaching dangers, such as aircraft from the opposing armed forces and river pirates.

Judy was later transferred to HMS Grasshopper based in Singapore. The ship was attacked by the opposition's aircraft and all passengers were forced to abandon ship. The survivors managed to swim to an island where they were stranded for days without food or drinking water. Judy managed to save their lives by digging out fresh water below ground for the men to drink. The survivors of the shipwreck then walked for hundreds of miles until they reached a city called Padang in Sumatra.



Prisoners of war are people that have been captured by the opposition during a war. During the Second World War, over 190,000 people became prisoners of war in Japan.



Unfortunately, the crew were soon captured by Japanese soldiers and they were made prisoners of war. The ship's survivors hid Judy under sacks of rice and they took her into the prison camp with them.

Judy the Prisoner of War

Judy formed a close bond with the British aircraftman, Frank Williams while living at the prison camp. Frank shared his meagre portion of rice with Judy and, from then on, the dog wouldn't leave Frank's side.

Judy protected the prisoners by distracting the camp guards and she often went searching for much-needed food for them to eat. Frank managed to persuade a Japanese commander to make Judy an official prisoner of war. This meant that she was eligible for food rations, like the other prisoners. Judy was the first animal to ever be registered as a prisoner of war.

In 1945, around the time of the end of the Second World War, Judy and Frank were released. However, Frank needed to pay Judy's **quarantine** costs of £12 (the equivalent of over £400 today). In order to raise money, Frank placed an advert in a magazine. Many people, after reading Judy's remarkable story, were happy to donate and Frank raised over £16.

Judy the War Hero

In 1946, Judy was awarded the PDSA Dickin Medal: a medal awarded for outstanding devotion and bravery in times of war. The same year, Judy's bark was broadcast on the radio as part of Victory Day celebrations.

Judy lived with Frank until she passed away at 13 years old while living in Tanzania. She was buried along with her RAF jacket and medals.

Remembering Judy

A book has been published about Judy's story and her collar and medal are on display in the Imperial War Museum in London.

Judy was chosen in 2020 as one of the animals that have played a key role in war history. The Royal Navy is arranging for a bronze statue of Judy to be placed at North Wales Pet Cemetery.



Glossary

mascot: A person, animal or object that is meant to bring good luck.

quarantine: When a person or animal (usually after arriving from another country) is placed in isolation to prevent the possible spread of infectious diseases.

Questions

1. Draw **four** lines and match each event to the correct year.

1946

2020

1936

1945

Judy was chosen as one of the hero animals to be made into a bronze statue.

Judy was born in Shanghai.

Judy was awarded the PDSA Dickin Medal.

Judy and Frank were released from the prison camp.

2. In which section of the text would you find information about the sinking of HMS Grasshopper? Tick one.

- Remembering Judy
- Judy the Prisoner of War
- Judy the War Hero
- Judy the Ship's Mascot

3. Fill in the missing word.

Frank managed to persuade a Japanese commander to make Judy an _____ prisoner of war.

4. Look at the section called **Judy the Prisoner of War**.

Find and copy one word which means the same as 'diverting attention'.

5. What **two** approaching dangers did Judy warn the crew of onboard HMS Gnat?

• _____

• _____

6. Discuss why you think that Frank wanted to bring Judy back to the UK with him after the war had ended.

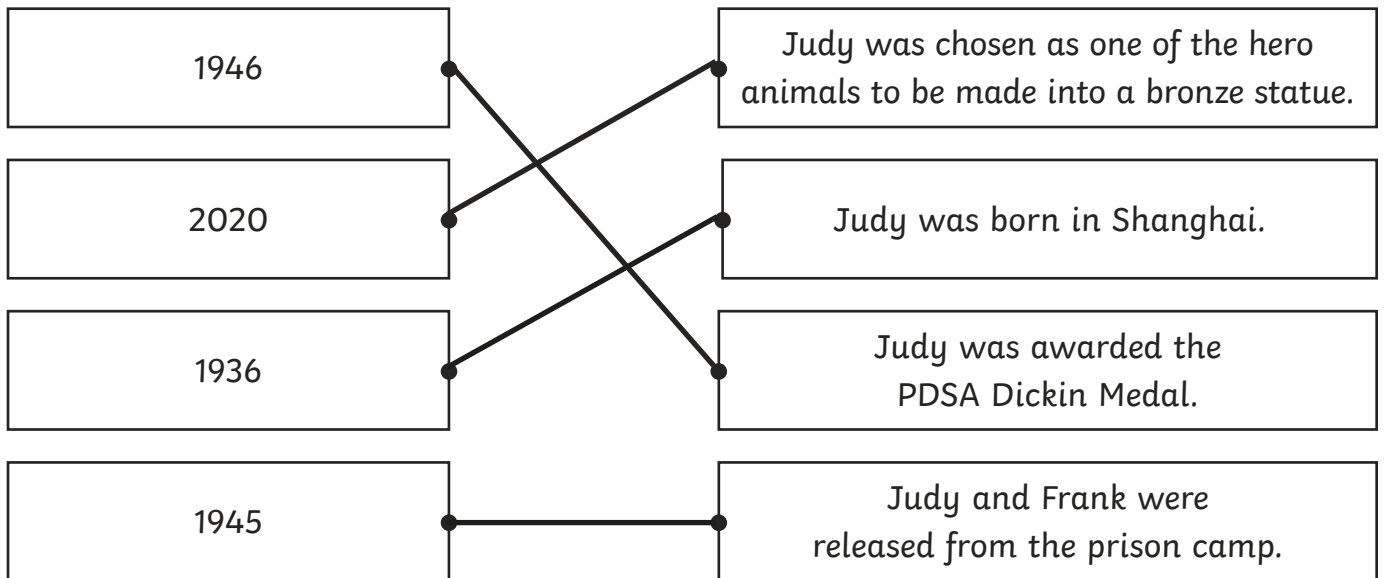
7. Would you have liked to have met Judy? Explain your answer.

8. Summarise what you have learnt about Judy in 25 words or fewer.

9. Explain why you think that people donated money to help to pay for Judy's quarantine costs.

Answers

1. Draw **four** lines and match each event to the correct year.



2. In which section of the text would you find information about the sinking of HMS Grasshopper? Tick one.

- Remembering Judy
- Judy the Prisoner of War
- Judy the War Hero
- Judy the Ship's Mascot**

3. Fill in the missing word.

Frank managed to persuade a Japanese commander to make Judy an **official** prisoner of war.

4. Look at the section called **Judy the Prisoner of War**.

Find and copy one word which means the same as 'diverting attention'.

distracting

5. What **two** approaching dangers did Judy warn the crew of onboard HMS Gnat?

- **aircraft from the opposing armed forces**
- **river pirates**

6. Discuss why you think that Frank wanted to bring Judy back to the UK with him after the war had ended.

Pupils' own responses, such as: Frank probably wanted to bring Judy back to the UK because he had formed a close bond with her. He would have wanted her to come home with him so that he could continue to care for her as she had for him.

7. Would you have liked to have met Judy? Explain your answer.

Pupils' own responses, such as: Yes, I would have liked to have met Judy because she was a brave dog and loyal to her soldier friends. I would give her a hug and shake her paw.

8. Summarise what you have learnt about Judy in 25 words or fewer.

Pupils' own responses, such as: Judy was an amazingly heroic dog who was loyal to her crew and saved the lives of many British soldiers with her intelligence and bravery.

9. Explain why you think that people donated money to help to pay for Judy's quarantine costs.

Pupils' own responses, such as: People probably wanted to donate towards Judy's quarantine costs after reading her story in the magazine. They were probably amazed by her bravery and thankful of her contribution towards the war effort so they wanted to help her.

Judy:

The Hero Dog of the Second World War

Judy was a canine hero famous for her heroism and for saving the lives of many British troops in East Asia during the Second World War. She was awarded the prestigious PDSA Dickin Medal for animal bravery and she is known for being the only dog to be officially registered as a prisoner of war.



Judy the Ship's Mascot

Judy, a pure-bred liver and white coloured English pointer, was born in Shanghai, China in 1936. Judy was given the role of mascot onboard the Royal Navy ship, HMS Gnat, during the Second World War. It was common for animals, such as dogs, to be adopted as ships' mascots; they would help with pest control and security as well as provide welcome companionship for those onboard.

It soon became clear to the sailors onboard HMS Gnat that Judy had exceptional qualities: her keen sense of hearing meant that she was able to warn the crew of approaching perils, such as aircraft from the opposing armed forces and river pirates.



A few years later, Judy was transferred to HMS Grasshopper based in Singapore. In 1942, the ship came under attack from Japanese aircraft and all passengers were forced to abandon ship. The survivors swam to an island where they were marooned without food or drinking water.

Judy, once again, came to the rescue by finding a spring below the sand and digging until fresh water came to the surface for the men to drink. One of the sailors marooned on the island later said that, 'Judy was a saviour then. She was a marvellous lifesaver.'

The survivors of the sunken HMS Grasshopper, along with Judy, then walked for hundreds of miles until they reached a place called Padang in Sumatra. Unfortunately for them, the area had recently been seized by the opposition and the crew were all captured and made prisoners of war (POW).

During the Second World War, over 190,000 troops were made Japanese prisoners of war and they were taken to prison camps. The ship's survivors, who were determined to protect Judy, concealed her under sacks of rice and smuggled her into the camp with them.

Judy the Prisoner of War

While in the camp in Medan, Judy formed a close bond with the British aircraftman, Frank Williams. Frank realised that Judy had no real owner so he began sharing his meagre ration of rice with her. It was from then that Judy became especially attached to Frank and she wouldn't leave his side.

Judy continued to put the lives of the prisoners before her own and she was known to distract the camp guards in order to protect them from harm as well as leave the camp to find food for the hungry prisoners.

Frank persuaded a Japanese commander to make her an official POW. This status protected Judy from the guards and, like the other prisoners, made her eligible for food rations. She was the first animal to ever be registered as a prisoner of war.

Judy, Frank and other remaining prisoners of war were finally freed when the Second World War ended in 1945. However, Judy could not return to the UK without being quarantined for six months to ensure that she was free from any diseases before entering the country.



Frank was expected to pay £12 (the equivalent of over £400 today) for the cost of quarantine: this was more than he could afford. In order to raise funds, Frank placed an advert in a magazine explaining why Judy was special and, as a result, he managed to raise over £16.

Judy the Celebrity War Hero

In 1946, Judy was awarded the PDSA Dickin Medal: the highest honour that an animal can receive. The medal is awarded for outstanding devotion and bravery displayed by an animal during a war. That same year, Judy's bark was played on the radio across the world as part of Victory Day celebrations.

Following the war, Judy lived with Frank until she passed away at 13 years old. She was buried in Tanzania, where she was living at the time, along with her RAF jacket and medals.

Remembering Judy

Judy's story has been made into a book and her collar and medal are on display in the Imperial War Museum in London. In 2020, Judy was chosen by the Royal Navy to represent all animals that played a key role in wartime. She will be one of four dogs to be cast in bronze and positioned at North Wales Pet Cemetery.



Questions

1. Which breed of dog was Judy? Tick one.

- English setter
- English springer spaniel
- English pointer
- English mastiff

2. Number the events from 1-4 to show the order in which they appear in the text.

- Judy was a mascot onboard the HMS Grasshopper.
- Judy was awarded the PDSA Dickin Medal.
- Judy was made a mascot onboard the HMS Gnat.
- Judy was made an official prisoner of war.

3. Look at the section called **Judy the Prisoner of War**.

Find and copy one word which shows that the rations of rice in the prison camp were small.

4. Fill in the missing words.

Judy could not return to the UK without being _____ for six months to ensure that she was free from any _____ before entering the country.

5. How did the survivors of HMS Grasshopper travel to Padang in Sumatra?

6. **Ships' mascots would help with pest control and security as well as provide welcome companionship for those onboard.**

What does the word 'welcome' mean in this sentence?

7. **Frank was expected to pay £12 (the equivalent of over £400 today) for the cost of quarantine.**

Why do you think that the author has included the information that is written inside the brackets?

8. **The ship's survivors, who were determined to protect Judy, concealed her under sacks of rice and smuggled her into the camp with them.**

Why do you think that the survivors of HMS Grasshopper were 'determined to protect Judy'?

9. Do you think it is fair that Frank had to pay for Judy's quarantine costs? Explain your answer.

10. Summarise why you think that Judy is a hero in 25 words or fewer.

Answers

1. Which breed of dog was Judy? Tick one.

- English setter
- English springer spaniel
- English pointer**
- English mastiff

2. Number the events from 1-4 to show the order in which they appear in the text.

- 2** Judy was a mascot onboard the HMS Grasshopper.
- 4** Judy was awarded the PDSA Dickin Medal.
- 1** Judy was made a mascot onboard the HMS Gnat.
- 3** Judy was made an official prisoner of war.

3. Look at the section called **Judy the Prisoner of War**.

Find and copy one word which shows that the rations of rice in the prison camp were small.

meagre

4. Fill in the missing words.

Judy could not return to the UK without being **quarantined** for six months to ensure that she was free from any **diseases** before entering the country.

5. How did the survivors of HMS Grasshopper travel to Padang in Sumatra?

The survivors of the sunken HMS Grasshopper walked for hundreds of miles until they reached Padang in Sumatra.

6. **Ships' mascots would help with pest control and security as well as provide welcome companionship for those onboard.**

What does the word 'welcome' mean in this sentence?

Pupils' own responses, such as: The word welcome means that the companionship that ships' mascots provide is appreciated and gladly received.

7. **Frank was expected to pay £12 (the equivalent of over £400 today) for the cost of quarantine.**
Why do you think that the author has included the information that is written inside the brackets?

Pupils' own responses, such as: The author has probably included that information so that the reader can understand that £12 was worth a lot more money during Frank's time. By giving the equivalent in today's money, the reader can understand the cost in relation to today.

8. **The ship's survivors, who were determined to protect Judy, concealed her under sacks of rice and smuggled her into the camp with them.**

Why do you think that the survivors of HMS Grasshopper were 'determined to protect Judy'?

Pupils' own responses, such as: The survivors were determined to protect Judy because she had saved their lives on more than one occasion. They probably cared a great deal for her and felt that she was an essential member of their crew.

9. Do you think it is fair that Frank had to pay for Judy's quarantine costs? Explain your answer.

Pupils' own responses, such as: No, I think after being shipwrecked and a prisoner of war that he should have been able to get the government to pay the cost.

10. Summarise why you think that Judy is a hero in 25 words or fewer.

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think Judy was a hero because she saved the lives of many soldiers and showed great bravery by putting their lives before her own.