

Puppy Love

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Meet Sergeant Stubby!

He was not an impressive sight: short, barrel-shaped, a bit homely, with brown and white brindled stripes. According to the historical records in 1917 he was a homeless stray. But, despite his shortcomings he became the most famous animal in the United States until his death in 1926. His wordly debut took place at the Yale University football stadium where soldiers of the 102nd infantry, part of the 26th "Yankee Division" were doing basic training prior to their deployment. The stray lingered around Camp Yale and a new friendship was forged between the mutt and Private Robert Conroy: he became Stubby. The two soon became inseparable. Conroy was able to elude the ship guards by secretly hiding Stubby in his army coat when he boarded the large freighter bound for France. The stowaway was eventually found out. But, he charmed everyone aboard and became the unofficial mascot of the 102nd infantry. He was even presented his own metal "dog tags." The 26th would end World War I as one of the most battle-scarred divisions. They took part in four major offensives and Stubby was there for the duration. Stubby reportably saved many lives by his early warning of enemy gas attacks. He was also known for his ability to know the enemy by their uniform and viciously attacked them when the opportunity arose. After the war, Conroy attended Georgetown Law School and Stubby became the school's official mascot. In 1921, Stubby was invited to the White House as a special guest of President Harding. The little hero died in his sleep in the arms of his friend in battle, and the one he loved most of all others.



Pippa is home in Virginia being loved and spoiled by her wonderful family.



The story of dogs in warfare is an old one, stretching back to antiquity. Persians, Greeks, Assyrians, and Babylonians all used dogs in battle. Dogs were part of Attila the Hun's forces in his fifth-century European conquests. In the Middle Ages, knights outfitted dogs with canine armor. Napoleon used trained dogs in his French campaign in Egypt. Many countries involved in World War I had war dog training schools in place prior to the conflict. Germany established the first military dog school in 1884. At the beginning of the Great War Germany had 7,000 trained military dogs. At the peak of WWI, Germany had 30,000 trained dog messengers.



Every country in WWI had a unit of Red Cross dogs. They served valiantly as they negotiated battlefields to aide wounded soldiers. The dogs wore saddlebags stocked with water and medical supplies. They also provided comfort and warmth to dying soldiers.