

JUDY THE DOG, DICKIN MEDAL RECIPIENT,

A LINK WITH NACHINGWEA



*Judy, wearing the
Dickin Medal,
with her protector
Frank Williams*

A PURE bred English Pointer, Judy was born in 1936 in Shanghai, China. She was adopted as the mascot for HMS Grasshopper which in February 1942 was torpedoed and sunk with heavy losses. Judy and the surviving crew members were marooned on an island off Sumatra where her ability to sniff out fresh water saved all their lives.

The survivors, including Judy, were eventually captured by Japanese forces and incorporated into a forced labour camp under brutal conditions. Judy devoted herself to fellow POW, Frank Williams, whose side she was said never to have left. She protected Williams and his colleagues by distracting the guards when they beat the prisoners; the Japanese guards responded by trying to shoot her on several occasions. However, Frank Williams persuaded the camp commandant to officially register her as a prisoner of war by presenting him with one of Judy's new pups; this secured a modicum of official protection for her. She was the only animal to have been registered as a POW (POW81A). After surviving for two years as a prisoner and inflicted with wounds from gunshots, alligator bites, attacks from wild dogs and a Sumatran tiger, Judy and her fellow prisoners were liberated after the Japanese surrender in 1945.



*The Dickin Medal,
which is the animals'
version of the Victoria
Cross*

Williams smuggled her aboard a ship heading for Britain where she endured the standard six month quarantine. Upon her release in May 1946, she was awarded the Dickin Medal, known as the animal VC.



IN MEMORY OF
 JUDY DM CANINE VC
 BREED ENGLISH POINTER
 BORN SHANGHAI FEBRUARY 1936, DIED
 FEBRUARY 1950
 WOUNDED 14th FEBRUARY 1942
 BOMBED AND SUNK HMS GRASSHOPPER LINGGA
 ARCHIPELAGO FEBRUARY 14th 1942. TORPEDOED
 SS VAN WAERWIJCK MALACCA STRAIT JUNE 26th
 1943.
 JAPANESE PRISONER OF WAR MARCH 1943—
 AUGUST 1945
 CHINA CEYLON JAVA ENGLAND EGYPT
 BURMA SINGAPORE MALAYA SUMATRA E. AFRICA
 THEY ALSO SERVED

Judy's Grave in Nachingwea in 1950 and right, the original inscription

Her citation read: "For magnificent courage and endurance in Japanese prison camps, which helped to maintain morale among her fellow prisoners and also for saving many lives through her intelligence and watchfulness." She and Williams spent next year visiting relatives of POWs who hadn't survived the camps.

In 1947 Frank Williams emigrated to Nachingwea in Tanzania, taking his adored wartime companion with him.

After two years Judy developed a mammary tumour and the painful decision was made to have her euthanized on February 17th 1950. Her body was wrapped in a Royal Air Force jacket and laid in a simple wooden coffin. But her memory lived on in the hearts of those who knew her.



Judy's grave in 2013. Members of St Andrew's Church, Nachingwea and St Andrew's Church, Stapleford, Cambridgeshire accompanied by the District Commissioner (in red!) The original plaque was stolen.

Her master spent two months building a granite and marble memorial in her memory. After Williams' death in 2006, Judy's medal was donated to the London based People's Dispensary for Sick Animals, a veterinary charity, which in turn arranged that the medal and her collar went on display at the

Imperial War Museum. A biography; "The Judy Story: The Dog With Six Lives" by Varley and James was published in 1973.

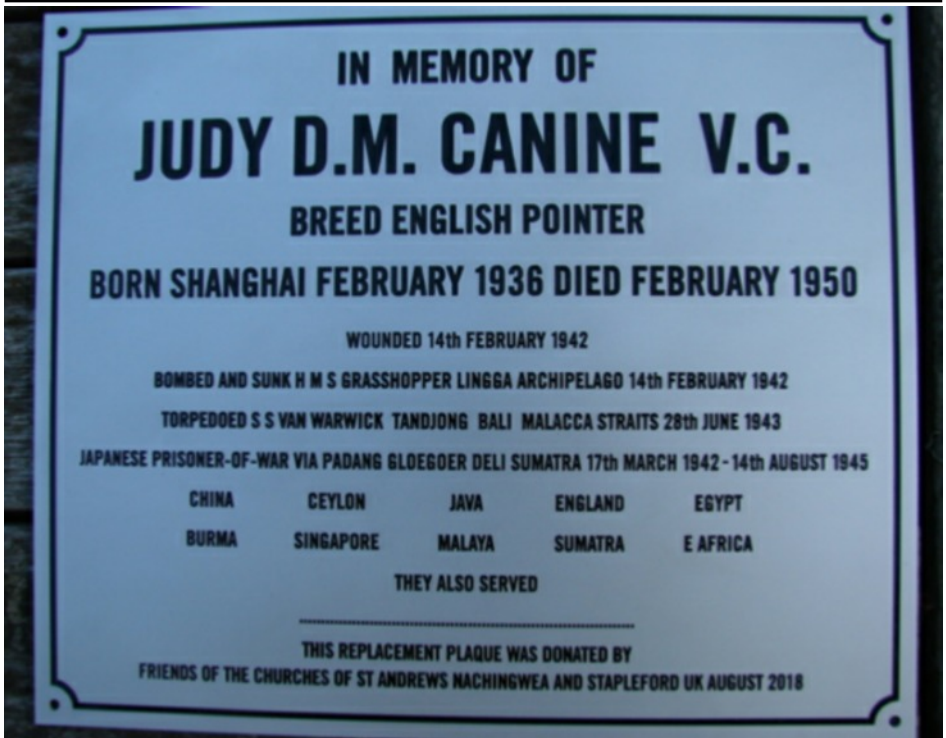
AN APPEAL

Over time Judy's grave in Nachingwea had been damaged and the plaque had disappeared.

The church of St. Andrew's in Stapleford, Cambridgeshire has a 40 year link with a sister church in Nachingwea, Tanzania and is involved with many projects in Nachingwea. Following an appeal a new plaque was made and taken out to Nachingwea in 2018. The plaque was put in place and the memorial to Judy restored by our friends in Nachingwea. **Bill Fench**



The restored grave with the new plaque and on the next page a close up of the plaque.



The new plaque donated by St. Andrew's Church, Stapleford