

Judy the Dog

MANY of you will remember the story of Judy the Dog and her heroism in World War 2.

Judy, a pure bred English Pointer, born in 1936 in Shanghai, China had an extraordinary life, marked by disaster, extreme courage and faithfulness. She was the only animal officially recognised as a prisoner of war, was awarded the Dickin Medal, the animal VC, and now lies in a grave in Nachingwea, Tanzania.

In 1947 Frank Williams, her owner emigrated to Nachingwea, taking his adored wartime companion with him. After two years Judy died on 17 February 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.

Her grave is in Nachingwea and in 2018 the Link provided a plaque for the gravestone to replace the original, which had been removed.



We have now been informed that the recently formed National Military Working Dogs Memorial charity, otherwise known as NMWDM (UK), has commissioned four bronze statues including one of Judy. The photograph shows work in progress. The planned working dog memorial has been designed to represent all branches of the United Kingdom's Armed Forces.

The memorial will have four bronze dog statues, one of whom will be Judy, who have been specifically chosen and will represent all of the military working dogs who have bravely served their country. Alongside the four bronze dog statues will be plaques with the names of many other loved military dogs.

It is hoped that the Memorial will open later this year at the Pet Cemetery, Holywell, Flintshire. If you would like more information or wish to subscribe please visit nmwdm.org.uk.

The other exciting news is that Judy's collar and Dickin medal are coming together at the National Archives Great Escapes Exhibition in Kew from 2 February to 21 July (Tuesdays to Sundays). Her story is one of the highlights of the exhibition. nationalarchives.gov.uk/great-escapes.

Caroline Davies in the Guardian on Thursday 28 December 2023 wrote "One special story of a liver and white pointer dog named Judy, a ship's mascot shipwrecked off China, captured in Singapore, who survived a crocodile attack and became the companion of British prisoner of war Frank Williams in a camp in Indonesia, is also highlighted. On display will be the Dickin medal – the animal equivalent of the Victoria Cross – that Judy, the only dog officially registered as a prisoner of war, received for countless acts that helped save lives, including finding fresh water, foraging for food and, crucially, distracting camp guards."

Sounds interesting and worth a visit! **The Nachingwea Committee**

QUIZ NIGHT!!!

at The Three Horseshoes
Monday 15 April, 8-10pm
Raising funds for Nachingwea

Get your fingers on the buzzers! Join us for a fun-packed evening at the Three Horseshoes, with a quiz for all tastes from Jon West. Teams from 1 to 6 people. Entry £5 per person.

Raising funds for women's health & food security projects in Nachingwea, Tanzania. Booking recommended!

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Raffle • Free nibbles • Donations welcome

