“Served on HMS Amethyst during the Yangtse Incident, disposing of many rats though wounded by shell blast. Throughout the incident his behaviour was of the highest order, although the blast was capable of making a hole over a foot in diameter in a steel plate.”

Date of Award: 1949
SIMON’S STORY

In the summer of 1949, at the height of the Chinese Civil War, HMS Amethyst came under People’s Liberation Army artillery fire while cruising along the Yangtze river. The ship’s captain, Lieutenant Commander Skinner, died when an artillery shell blew a 15-foot hole in the bulkhead and many others were injured, including the ship’s cat, Simon.

HMS Amethyst received more than 50 direct hits and despite the efforts of a passing Navy Frigate to pull it to safety, the ship and the crew members left on board ended up stranded in mid-river for almost 10 weeks.

Hot, humid conditions were the perfect breeding ground for a rat infestation. The already limited food supplies were in danger of being completely destroyed. Despite shrapnel wounds to his legs and burns to his back and face, Simon was all that stood between the rats and the crew’s essential supplies.
“DESPITE SHRAPNEL WOUNDS TO HIS LEGS AND BURNS TO HIS BACK AND FACE ...”
The rats were big and fierce, and had even attacked crew members, but this didn’t stop Simon from hunting them down. One particularly vicious rat, nicknamed Mao Tse-tung, carried out repeated attacks on the meagre food supplies. When Simon killed it, the crew were so impressed they promoted Simon to ‘Able Seaman’ in recognition of his achievement.

As the weeks went by, Simon continued protecting supplies and lifting his injured shipmates’ morale when accompanying the Maintenance Officer on his daily rounds. Simon later received the Amethyst campaign ribbon for ‘distinguished and meritorious service… single-handedly and unarmed stalk down and destroy ‘Moa Tse-tung’ a rat guilty of raiding food supplies which were critically short. Be it further known that from April 22 to August 4, you did rid HMS Amethyst of pestilence and vermin, with unrelenting faithfulness.’
Simon received his PDSA Dickin Medal posthumously in 1949 and was buried with full military honours in PDSA’s Animal Cemetery in Ilford, Essex. His citation read: “Served on HMS Amethyst during the Yangtse Incident, disposing of many rats though wounded by shell blast. Throughout the incident his behaviour was of the highest order, although the blast was capable of making a hole over a foot in diameter in a steel plate.”
In Memory of

Simon

Served in

H.M.S. Amethysts

May 1948 - November

Awarded Dickin

August 1949

Died 28th November

Throughout the Yachts's

Behaviour was of the High

Loving Memory
THE PDSA DICKIN MEDAL

The close relationship between humans and animals is rarely more profound than in times of conflict. Throughout history, animals have stood alongside humans in action and shown incredible bravery and devotion to duty when confronted with the horrors of war.

Our founder, Maria Dickin, CBE, introduced the PDSA Dickin Medal on 2 December 1943, at the height of World War II.

A tireless campaigner for animal welfare, Maria Dickin was determined to raise the status of animals in society and improve their care. The Medal was instituted to recognise outstanding acts of gallantry and devotion to duty displayed by animals serving with the Armed Forces or Civil Defence units in any theatre of war, throughout the world.

Regarded worldwide as the animals’ Victoria Cross, the PDSA Dickin Medal is as inspirational and relevant today as it was 75 years ago. It is a fitting tribute to the gallant animals ‘who also served’ and whose remarkable contributions helped save countless lives.

The highest honour any animal can receive, the Medal stands as testament to the Diligent, Resolute, Fearless, and Relentless qualities shown by animals in action.
WINKIE - DM 1
NEHU.40.NS.1
Date of award: 2 December 1943
“For delivering a message under exceptionally difficult conditions and so contributing to the rescue of an aircrew while serving with the RAF in February 1942.”

TYKE - DM 2
(also known as George)
No.1263 MEPS 43
Date of award: 2 December 1943
“For delivering a message under exceptionally difficult conditions and so contributing to the rescue of an aircrew, while serving with the RAF in the Mediterranean in June 1943.”

BEACH COMBER - DM 4
NPS.41.NS.4230
Date of award: 6 March 1944
“For bringing the first news to this country of the landing at Dieppe, under hazardous conditions in September 1942, while serving with the Canadian Army.”

ROB - DM 11
War Dog no. 471/322
Special Air Service
Date of award: 22 January 1945
“For being the first dog in locating buried air-raid victims while serving with a PDSA Animal Rescue Squad.”

ROYAL BLUE - DM 16
NURP.40.GVIS.453
Date of award: March 1945
“For being the first pigeon in this war to deliver a message from a forced-landed aircraft on the Continent while serving with the RAF in October 1940.”

THORN - DM 12
MAP serving with Civil Defence
Date of award: 2 March 1945
“For locating air-raid casualties in spite of thick smoke in a burning building.”

KENLEY LASS - DM 13
NURP.36.JH.190
Date of award: March 1945
“For being the first pigeon to be used with success for secret communications from an agent in enemy-occupied France while serving with the NPS in October 1940.”

COMMANDO - DM 14
NURP.38.EGU.242
Date of award: March 1945
“For successfully delivering messages from agents in occupied France on three occasions; twice under exceptionally adverse conditions, while serving with the NPS in 1942.”

FLYING DUTCHMAN - DM 15
NPS.42.NS.44802
Date of award: March 1945
“For successfully delivering messages from agents in Holland on three occasions. Missing on fourth mission, while serving with the RAF in 1944.”

DUTCH COAST - DM 17
NURP.41.A.2164
Date of award: March 1945
“For delivering an SOS from a ditched aircrew close to the enemy coast 288 miles distance in 7½ hours, under unfavourable conditions, while serving with the RAF in April 1942.”

BEAUTY - DM 8
PDSA Animal Rescue Squad serving with Civil Defence
Date of award: 12 January 1945
“For being the pioneer dog in locating buried air-raid victims while serving with a PDSA Animal Rescue Squad.”

WHITE VISION - DM 3
SURP.41.L.30.89
Date of award: 2 December 1943
“For delivering the first message from the Normandy beaches from a ship off the beachhead while serving with the RAF on 6 June 1944.”

GUSTAV - DM 6
NPS.42.31066
Date of award: 1 September 1944
“For delivering the first message from the Normandy beaches from a ship off the beachhead while serving with the RAF on 6 June 1944.”

JET - DM 9
MAP serving with Civil Defence
Date of award: 12 January 1945
“For being responsible for the rescue of persons trapped under blitzed buildings while serving with the London Civil Defence Services.”

IRMA - DM 10
MAP serving with Civil Defence
Date of award: 12 January 1945
“For being responsible for the rescue of persons trapped under blitzed buildings while serving with the London Civil Defences.”

JET - DM 9
MAP serving with Civil Defence
Date of award: 12 January 1945
“For being responsible for the rescue of persons trapped under blitzed buildings while serving with the London Civil Defence Services.”

FLYING DUTCHMAN - DM 15
NPS.42.NS.44802
Date of award: March 1945
“For being the first pigeon in this war to deliver a message from a forced-landed aircraft on the Continent while serving with the RAF in October 1940.”

DUTCH COAST - DM 17
NURP.41.A.2164
Date of award: March 1945
“For delivering an SOS from a ditched aircrew close to the enemy coast 288 miles distance in 7½ hours, under unfavourable conditions, while serving with the RAF in April 1942.”

ROB - DM 11
War Dog no. 471/322
Special Air Service
Date of award: 22 January 1945
“For participating in landings during the North African Campaign with an infantry unit and later served with a Special Air Unit in Italy as patrol and guard on small detachments lying-up in enemy territory. His presence with these parties saved many of them from discovery and subsequent capture or destruction. Rob made over 20 parachute descents.”

Kirkley Lass - DM 13
NURP.36.JH.190
Date of award: March 1945
“For being the first pigeon to be used with success for secret communications from an agent in enemy-occupied France while serving with the NPS in October 1940.”

COMMANDO - DM 14
NURP.38.EGU.242
Date of award: March 1945
“For successfully delivering messages from agents in occupied France on three occasions; twice under exceptionally adverse conditions, while serving with the NPS in 1942.”

FLYING DUTCHMAN - DM 15
NPS.42.NS.44802
Date of award: March 1945
“For successfully delivering messages from agents in Holland on three occasions. Missing on fourth mission, while serving with the RAF in 1944.”

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Date of award: March 1945
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WINKIE - DM 1
NEHU.40.NS.1
Date of award: 2 December 1943
“For delivering a message under exceptionally difficult conditions and so contributing to the rescue of an aircrew while serving with the RAF in February 1942.”

BEACH COMBER - DM 4
NPS.41.NS.4230
Date of award: 6 March 1944
“For bringing the first news to this country of the landing at Dieppe, under hazardous conditions in September 1942, while serving with the Canadian Army.”

PADDY - DM 7
NPS.43.9451
Date of award: 1 September 1944
“For the best recorded time with a message from the Normandy Operations, while serving with the RAF in June 1944.”
NAVY BLUE - DM 18
NPS.41.NS.2862
Date of award: March 1945
“For delivering an important message from a Raiding Party on the West Coast of France, although injured, while serving with the RAF in June 1944.”

RIFLEMAN KHAN - DM 19
War Dog no. 147. 6th Battalion Camerons (Scottish Rifles)
Date of award: 27 March 1945
“For rescuing L/Cpl. Muldoon from drowning under heavy shellfire at the assault of Walcheren, November 1944, while serving with the 6th Camerons (SR).”

SCOTCH LASS - DM 23
NPS.42.21610
Date of award: June 1945
“For bringing 38 microphotographs across the North Sea in good time although injured, while serving with the RAF in Holland in September 1944.”

SHEILA - DM 24
Date of award: 2 July 1945
“For assisting in the rescue of four American airmen lost on the Cheviots in a blizzard after an aircrash in December 1944.”

BILLY - DM 25
NU.41.HQ.4373
Date of award: August 1945
“For delivering a message from a force-landed bomber, while in a state of complete collapse and under exceptionally bad weather conditions, while serving with the RAF in 1942.”

COLOGNE - DM 26
NURP.39.NPS.144
Date of award: 1947
“For homing from a crashed aircraft over Cologne although seriously wounded, while serving with the RAF in 1943.”

WILLIAM OF ORANGE - DM 21
NPS.42.NS.15125
Date of award: May 1945
“For carrying out a special task involving a flight of 480 miles from Northern Denmark while serving with the Special Service, Army Pigeon Service in July 1942.”

RIP - DM 27
Stray picked up by Civil Defence Squad at Poplar, London E14
Date of award: July 1945
“For locating many air-raid victims during the Blitz of 1940.”

RUHR EXPRESS - DM 22
NPS.43.29018
Date of award: May 1945
“For carrying an important message from the Ruhr Pocket in excellent time, while serving with the RAF in April 1945.”

MAQUIS - DM 28
NPS.NS.36392
Date of award: October 1945
“For bringing important messages three times from enemy-occupied country, viz: May 1943 (Amiens), February 1944 (Combined Operations) and June 1944 (French Maquis), while serving with the Special Service from the Continent.”

NPS.42.NS.2780 - DM 29
Date of award: October 1945
“For bringing important messages three times from enemy-occupied country, viz: July 1942, August 1942 and April 1943, while serving with the Special Service from the Continent.”

ALL ALONE - DM 35
NURP.39.SDS.39
Date of award: February 1946
“For delivering an important message in one day over a distance of 400 miles, while serving with the NPS in August 1943.”

PRINCESS - DM 36
42.W.D.593
Date of award: May 1946
“Sent on special mission to Crete, this pigeon returned to her loft (RAF Alexandria) having travelled about 500 miles mostly over sea, with most valuable information. One of the finest performances in the war record of the Pigeon Service.”

JUDY - DM 37
Date of award: May 1946
“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.”

MERCURY - DM 38
NURP.37.CEN.335
Date of award: August 1946
“For carrying out a special task involving a flight of 400 miles from Northern Denmark while serving with the Special Section, Army Pigeon Service in July 1942.”

NURP.38.BPC.6 - DM 39
Date of award: August 1946
“For three outstanding flights from France while serving with the Special Section, Army Pigeon Service, 11 July 1941, 9 September 1941, and 29 November 1941.”
GI JOE - DM 40
USA.43.SC.6390
Date of award: August 1946
"This bird is credited with making the most outstanding flight by a US Army Pigeon in World War II. Making the 20-mile flight from British 10th Army HQ, in the same number of minutes, it brought a message which arrived just in time to save the lives of at least one hundred Allied soldiers from being bombed by their own planes."

JUDY - DM 44
Date of award: November 1946
"These dogs saved the lives of two British officers in Israel by attacking an armed terrorist who was stealing up on them unawares and thus warning them of their danger. Punch sustained four bullet wounds and Judy a long graze down her back."

DUKE OF NORMANDY - DM 45
NURP.41.SBC.219
Date of award: 8 January 1947
"For being the first bird to arrive with a message from Paratroops of 21st Army Group behind enemy lines on D Day, 6 June 1944, while serving with APS."

NURP.43.CC.1418 - DM 46
Date of award: 8 January 1947
"For the fastest flight with message from 6th Airborne Div. Normandy, 7 June 1944, while serving with APS."

RICKY - DM 47
Date of award: 29 March 1947
"This dog was engaged in cleaning the verges of the canal bank at Nederweert, Holland. He found all the mines but during the operation one exploded. Ricky was wounded in the head but remained calm and kept working. Had he become excited he would have been a danger to the rest of the section working nearby."

BRIAN - DM 48
Date of award: 29 March 1947
"This patrol dog was attached to a Parachute Battalion of the 13th Batt. Airborne Division. He landed in Normandy with them and, having done the requisite number of jumps, became a fully qualified Paratrooper."

UPSTART - DM 49
Date of award: 11 April 1947
"While on patrol duty in Bethnal Green a flying bomb exploded within 75 yards, showering both horse and rider with broken glass and debris. Upstart was completely unperturbed and remained quietly on duty with his rider controlling the traffic, until the incident had been dealt with."

REGAL - DM 50
Date of award: 11 April 1947
"Was twice in burning stables caused by explosive incendiaries at Muswell Hill. Although receiving minor injuries, being covered by debris and close to the flames, this horse showed no signs of panic."

OLGA - DM 51
Date of award: 11 April 1947
"On duty when a flying bomb demolished four houses in Tooting and a plate-glass window crashed immediately in front of her. Olga, after bolting for 100 yards, returned to the scene of the accident and remained on duty with her rider controlling the traffic and assisting rescue organisations."

ANTIS - DM 52
Date of award: 28 January 1949
"Owned by a Czech airman, this dog served with him in the French Air Force and RAF from 1940 to 1945, both in North Africa and England. Returning to Czechoslovakia after the war, he substantially helped his master's escape across the frontier when, after the death of Jan Masaryk, he had to flee to the Communists."

TICHE - DM 53
Date of award: 1 July 1949
"For loyalty, courage and devotion to duty under hazardous conditions of war from 1941 to 1945, while serving with the 1st King's Rifle Corps in North Africa and Italy."

SALTY - DM 58
Guide dog
Date of award: 5 March 2002
"For remaining loyally at the side of his owner, Omar Rivera, during their escape from the World Trade Center in New York on 11 September 2001."

DD.43.T.139 - DM 41
(Australian Army Signal Corps)
Date of award: February 1947
"During an attack by Japanese on a US Marine patrol on Manus Island, pigeons were released to warn headquarters of an impending enemy counter-attack. Two were shot down but DD.43 despite heavy fire directed at it reached HQ with the result that enemy concentrations were bombed and the patrol extricated."

DD.43.Q.879 - DM 42
(Australian Army Signal Corps)
Date of award: February 1947
"During an attack by Japanese on a US Marine patrol on Manus Island, pigeons were released to warn headquarters of an impending enemy counter-attack. Two were shot down but DD.43 despite heavy fire directed at it reached HQ with the result that enemy concentrations were bombed and the patrol extricated."

GANDER - DM 55
Mascot of the Royal Rifles of Canada
Date of award: Posthumously on 27 October 2000
"For saving the lives of Canadian infantrymen during the Battle of Lye Mun on Hong Kong Island in December 1941. Without Gander’s intervention many more lives would have been lost in the assault."

APPOLLO - DM 56
New York Police dog representing all the Search and Rescue dogs at Ground Zero and the Pentagon.
Date of award: 5 March 2002
"For tireless courage and unstinting devotion to duty during the search and rescue operation at Ground Zero and the Pentagon following the terrorist attacks on New York and Washington on 11 September 2001."

ROSELLE - DM 57
Guide dog
Date of award: 5 March 2002
"For remaining loyally at the side of his owner, Michael Hinson, during their escape from the World Trade Center in New York on 11 September 2001."
SAM - DM 59
Royal Army Veterinary Corps dog
Date of award: Posthumously on 14 January 2003
“For outstanding gallantry in April 1998 while assigned to the Royal Canadian Regiment in Drvar during the conflict in Bosnia–Herzegovina.”

BUSTER - DM 60
Royal Army Veterinary Corps dog
Date of award: 9 December 2003
“For outstanding gallantry in March 2003 while assigned to the Duke of Wellington’s Regiment in Safwan, Southern Iraq.”

LUCKY - DM 61
RAF Police anti-terrorist tracker dog – RAF no. 3610 AD
Date of award: Posthumously on 6 February 2007
“For the outstanding gallantry and devotion to duty of the RAF Police anti-terrorist tracker dog team, comprising Bobbie, Jasper, Lassie and Lucky, while attached to the Civil Police and several British Army regiments including the Coldstream Guards, 2nd Battalion Royal Scots Guards and the Gurkhas during the Malaya Campaign.”

SADIE - DM 62
Royal Army Veterinary Corps Arms and Explosives Search dog
Date of award: 6 February 2007
“For outstanding gallantry and devotion to duty while assigned to the Royal Gloucestershire, Berkshire and Wiltshire Light Infantry during conflict in Afghanistan in 2005.”

TREO - DM 63
Royal Army Veterinary Corps Arms and Explosives Search dog
Date of award: 24 February 2010
“For outstanding gallantry and devotion to duty while assigned to the Royal Irish Regiment during conflict in Afghanistan in 2008.”

THEO - DM 64
Royal Army Veterinary Corps Arms and Explosives Search dog
Date of award: Posthumously on 25 October 2012
“For outstanding gallantry and devotion to duty while deployed with 104 Military Working Dog (MWD) Squadron during conflict in Afghanistan in September 2010 – March 2011.”

MALI - DM 69
Royal Army Veterinary Corps
Date of award: 17 November 2017
“For tireless bravery and devotion to duty during an operation in Afghanistan with the British Military in 2012.”

SASHA - DM 65
Royal Army Veterinary Corps Search dog
Date of award: Posthumously on 15 January 2018
“For bravery and devotion to duty during the US Army’s invasion of Sicily on 10 July 1943.”

KUGA - DM 71
Date of award: Posthumously on 26 October 2018
“For unstinting bravery and life-saving devotion to his handler and his unit, while on patrol with Operation Slipper in Afghanistan, 2011.”

HONORARY

WARRIOR
Canadian Cavalry
Date of award: Posthumously on 2 September 2014
“Warrior and General Jack Seely commanded three regiments of the Canadian Cavalry, leading the charge at some of the bloodiest and most infamous battles of World War I. Warrior’s Honorary PDSA Dickin Medal was awarded on behalf of all animals that served in the Great War.”

ABBREVIATIONS

APS
Allied Pigeon Service
NEHU
North of England Homing Union
NPS
National Pigeon Service
NURP
National Union of Racing Pigeons
“THE CLOSE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN HUMANS AND ANIMALS IS RARELY MORE PROFOUND THAN IN TIMES OF CONFLICT.”