

**ROB**  
**DM 11**

# DM 75

Celebrating the inspirational  
acts of animal bravery and  
devotion to duty that lie behind  
every PDSA Dickin Medal.

pdsa





## PDSA DICKIN MEDAL

**ROB**

**DM 11**

“Took part in landings during 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.”

Date of Award: 22 January 1945

## ROB'S STORY

Rob the Collie crossbreed served with the 2nd Special Air Service Regiment. During World War II he became known as the 'Para dog', after completing over 20 parachute drops – many of which landed in enemy territory.

Rob was born in Scotland but adopted by Mr E Bayne, a farmer from Ellesmere, Shropshire, where he soon became a family pet. He loved to help his master on the farm, herding cattle; gently chivvying out the hens who made forbidden raids on the garden and acting as nursemaid to Mr Bayne's young son, Basil, who learned to walk by clutching Rob's coat.

When war broke out, Mr Bayne heard the appeal for the loan of large dogs for national service. Partly for Rob's own sake, as food became a scarce commodity, but also to support his country, Mr Bayne offered Rob to the War Office, who accepted him and enrolled him into the War Dogs' Training School.





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“WOULD JUMP OUT  
OF THE AIRCRAFT  
WITHOUT  
HESITATION.”



When Basil's little sister Heather was born, there was no Rob there to help her learn to walk. He was away, serving in North Africa, where he had landed with the assault infantry and was doing fine work. In January 1945, three years after Rob joined the war effort, Mr Bayne received a letter from the War Office, marked 'Very Secret'. The letter detailed that Rob had been recommended to the Allied Forces Mascot Club to receive the PDSA Dickin Medal and that the recommendation had been passed.

Rob had been serving with the Special Air Service Regiment, which at the time was on the secret list. In 1945 though, the War Office allowed news of Rob's award to be made public. The official citation for Rob's PDSA Dickin Medal, read:

*"Took part in landings in the North Africa Campaign with the Infantry Unit.*

*"From September 1943 he served with the Special Air Unit in Italy. Most of these operations were of an unpleasant nature.*





*“He was used as a patrol dog and guard on small parties which were lying in enemy territory. There is no doubt that his presence with these parties saved many of them from being discovered, and thereby from being captured or killed.”*

Reports from Rob’s command detailed that he appeared to enjoy his parachute jumps and would jump from aircraft without hesitation. When he reached the ground, he would lie still until his handler joined him to remove his parachute and give him his orders.

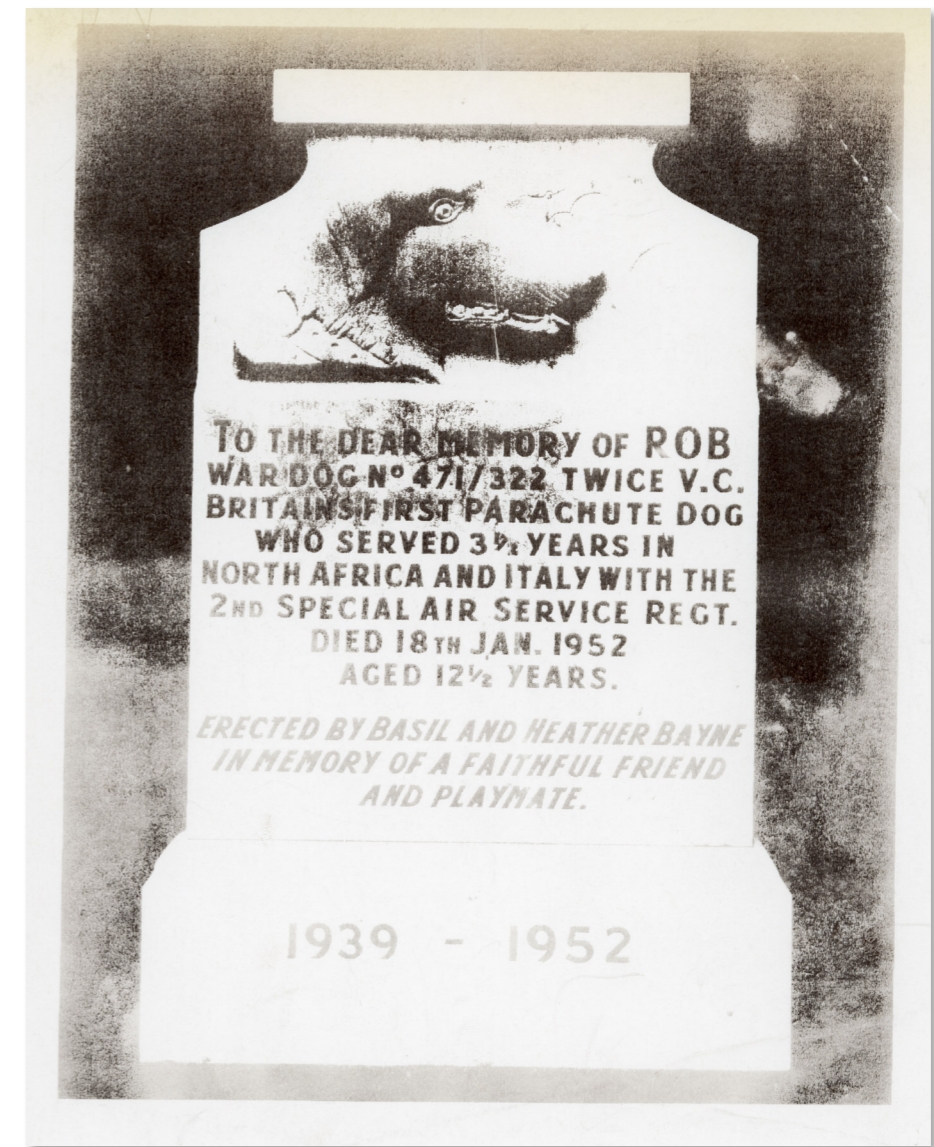
On one mission, Rob was dropped with a party of paratroopers behind enemy lines where they remained for many months. They faced incredible dangers and through it all, Rob never failed to keep guard and display faultless devotion to duty.



Rob returned to England six months before his PDSA Dickin Medal was announced. He appeared, at an exhibition in London in aid of the Returned British Prisoners of War Fund, accompanied by an escort of paratroopers and it was here that Rob received his Medal, presented by Captain Philip Sydney, who went on to become Lord De L'Isle and Dudley, VC. The press loved Rob's story and his photo appeared in many papers. Rob returned to military duties. In October 1945, when his SAS unit was disbanded he returned home.

The Bayne family drove to the station to welcome the returned hero, who was handed over by the military escort.

They wondered whether his long war service and the publicity he had received had spoiled him. But they quickly noted that it had not. Rob took up his old life exactly as before. He remembered how to deal with the hens and the cattle and enjoyed retirement from military life in the Shropshire countryside with his loving family.





## THE PDSA DICKIN MEDAL

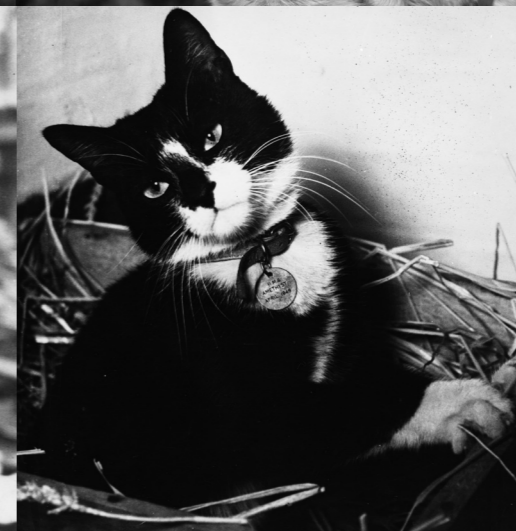
The close relationship between humans and animals is rarely more profound than in times of conflict. Throughout history, animals have stood alongside humans in action and shown incredible bravery and devotion to duty when confronted with the horrors of war.

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.





PDSA

For  
Gallantry

WE ALSO  
SERVE

# PDSA DICKIN MEDAL ROLL OF HONOUR

**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.'*

**WHITE VISION - DM 3**  
SURP.41.L.30.89  
Date of award: **2 December 1943**  
*'For delivering a message under exceptionally difficult conditions and so contributing to the rescue of an air crew while serving with the RAF in October 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.'*

**BOB - DM 5**  
6th Royal West Kent Regiment  
Date of award: **24 March 1944**  
*'For constant devotion to duty with special mention of patrol work at Green Hill, North Africa, while serving with the 6th Battalion Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment.'*

**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.'*

**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.'*

**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.'*

**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.'*

**ROB - DM 11**  
War Dog no. 471/322  
Special Air Service  
Date of award: **22 January 1945**  
*'Took part 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.'*

**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.'*

**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.'*

**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.'*

**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 Cameronians (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 Cameronians (SR).'*

**REX - DM 20**  
MAP Civil Defence Rescue Dog  
Date of award: **April 1945**  
*'For outstandingly good work in the location of casualties in burning buildings. Undaunted by smouldering debris, thick smoke, intense heat and jets of water from fire hoses, this dog displayed uncanny intelligence and outstanding determination in his efforts to follow up any scent which led him to a trapped casualty.'*

**WILLIAM OF ORANGE - DM 21**  
NPS.42.NS.15125  
Date of award: **May 1945**  
*'For delivering a message from the Arnhem Airborne Operation in record time for any single pigeon, while serving with the APS in September 1944.'*

**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.'*

**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.'*

**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.'*

**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.'*

**NPS.42.NS.7524 - DM 30**  
Date of award: **October 1945**  
*'For bringing important messages three times from enemy-occupied country, viz: July 1942, May 1943 and July 1943, while serving with the Special Service from the Continent.'*

**BROAD ARROW - DM 31**  
41.BA.2793  
Date of award: **October 1945**  
*'For bringing important messages three times from enemy-occupied country viz: May 1943, June 1943 and August 1943, while serving with the Special Service from the Continent.'*

**MARY OF EXETER - DM 32**  
NURP.40.WCE.249  
Date of award: **November 1945**  
*'For outstanding endurance on War Service in spite of wounds.'*

**PETER - DM 33**  
Date of award: **November 1945**  
*'For locating victims trapped under blitzed buildings while serving with the MAP attached to London Civil Defence.'*

**TOMMY - DM 34**  
NURP.41.DHZ.56  
Date of award: **February 1946**  
*'For delivering a valuable message from Holland to Lancashire under difficult conditions, while serving with NPS in July 1942.'*

**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 480 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.'*

#### GIJOE - 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.'*

#### DD.43.T.139 - DM 41

(Australian Army Signal Corps)

Date of award: **February 1947**

*'During a heavy tropical storm this bird was released from Army Boat 1402 which had foundered on Wadou Beach in the Huon Gulf. Homing 40 miles to Madang it brought a message which enabled a rescue ship to be sent in time to salvage the craft and its valuable cargo of stores and ammunition.'*

#### 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.'*

#### PUNCH - DM 43

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.'*

#### 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 Nederveert, 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 from the Communists.'*

#### TICH - 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.'*

#### SIMON - DM 54

Date of award: **1949**

*'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.'*

#### 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 Hingson, during their escape from the World Trade Center in New York on 11 September 2001.'*

#### 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.'*

#### 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.'*

#### SASHA - DM 65

Royal Army Veterinary Corps

Search dog

Date of award: **Posthumously on 21 May 2014**

*'For outstanding gallantry and devotion to duty while assigned to 2nd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, in Afghanistan 2008.'*

#### DIESEL - DM 66

French Police Dog and member of RAID (Research, Assistance,

Intervention and Deterrence)

Date of award: **Posthumously on 28 December 2015**

*'For his courage and devotion, Paris 18 November 2015'*

#### LUCCA - DM 67

Retired United States Marine

Corps Search and Rescue Dog

Date of award: **5 April 2016**

*'For tireless service to the military communities of the United States of America and coalition partners from 2006 to 2012.'*

#### SGT. RECKLESS - DM 68

United States Marine Corps

Date of award: **Posthumously on 27 July 2016**

*"For attention to duty, devotion and loyalty to the United States Marine Corps."*

#### 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.'*

#### CHIPS - DM 70

US Army

Date of award: **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: **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.'*

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## HONORARY

#### WARRIOR

United States Marine Corps

Date of award: **Posthumously on 27 July 2016**

*“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.”*

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#### 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.”