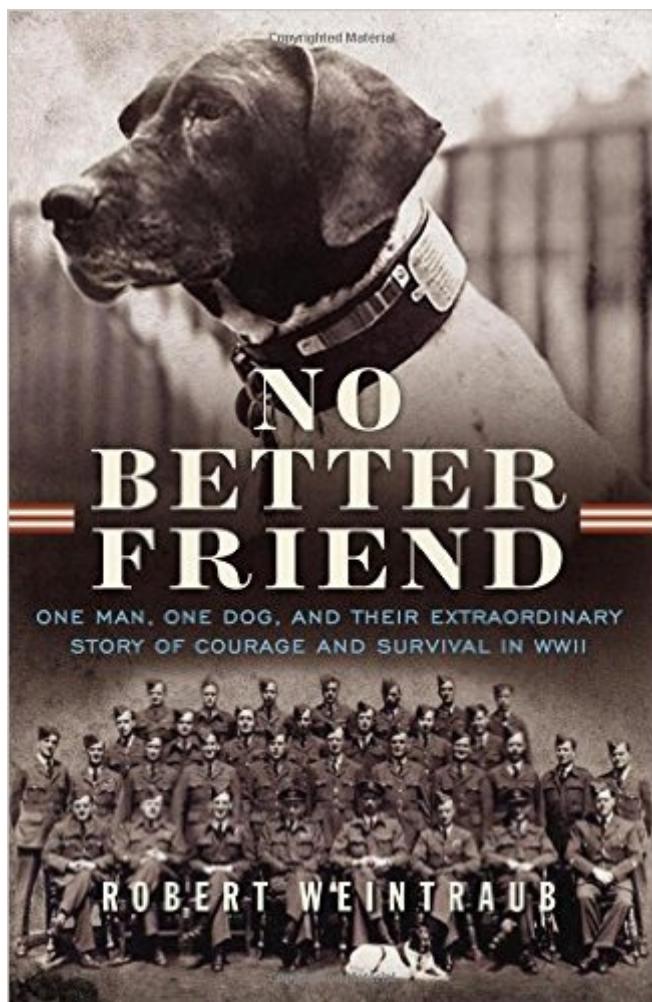


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No Better Friend: One Man, One Dog, And Their Extraordinary Story Of Courage And Survival In WWII



Synopsis

The extraordinary tale of survival and friendship between a man and a dog in warFlight technician Frank Williams and Judy, a purebred pointer, met in the most unlikely of places: a World War II internment camp in the Pacific. Judy was a fiercely loyal dog, with a keen sense for who was friend and who was foe, and the pair's relationship deepened throughout their captivity. When the prisoners suffered beatings, Judy would repeatedly risk her life to intervene. She survived bombings and other near-death experiences and became a beacon not only for Frank but for all the men, who saw in her survival a flicker of hope for their own. Judy's devotion to those she was interned with was matched by their love for her, which helped keep the men and their dog alive despite the ever-present threat of death by disease or the rifles of the guards. At one point, deep in despair and starvation, Frank contemplated killing himself and the dog to prevent either from watching the other die. But both were rescued, and Judy spent the rest of her life with Frank. She became the war's only official canine POW, and after she died at age fourteen, Frank couldn't bring himself to ever have another dog. Their story--of an unbreakable bond forged in the worst circumstances--is one of the great undiscovered sagas of World War II.

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Customer Reviews

Please Consider Reading this BookI know you're reading lots of important stuff, works of literature, science, world affairs, and more. But if you read this you will be rewarded far beyond your investment in time and money.Judy, a pure-bred Pointer, was born in Shanghai in 1936, and was a witness to gruesome human history, as China, and then the world, descended into the horror of

World War II. Judy is present for the fall of Singapore, watching for hours from the deck of the British gunboat "Grasshopper." She sees desperate people thronging the docks seeking escape from the advancing Japanese, and hears their screams as they are gunned down by Japanese fighters. This might have reinforced an already heightened sense that Judy had of the seriousness of her times. In her military environment, Judy had a succession of loving Chief Humans, and also enjoyed the affection of the entire crew. Respect increased as Judy developed useful military skills, for example warning of approaching enemy aircraft. As the situation deteriorates, Judy finds herself with a group fleeing the Japanese, first by boat, with the boat shot from under them; they are marooned, but escape to the island of Sumatra, and endure on-foot a 75 mile journey across it; but are finally captured by the Japanese. It's surprising that Judy survived even a minute in a Japanese POW camp, but survive she did, by subterfuge, daring and luck. But by summer of 1942, Judy's fortunes were at a low ebb. She was now mostly dependent for food on a group of POWs who were sympathetic, but more than half starved themselves.

Judy (1936-1950) was a large, sober-faced English Pointer, the only dog to have official POW status in World War II. She saved many lives by her canine wiles, and became the best friend of British Aircraftman Frank Williams after they struck up a friendship based on survival, in a Japanese interment camp. Her incredible saga has been painstakingly pieced together by Robert Weintraub (THE HOUSE THAT RUTH BUILT, THE VICTORY SEASON) from news stories and personal recollections, and from the press attention that Judy ultimately enjoyed in the United Kingdom when she "moved" there, smuggled in by Frank after the war. Nothing in her early life indicated the distinctions she would eventually garner. She was just an orphaned pup living in a kennel in Shanghai, her animosity towards the Japanese military probably ingrained early on when she was beaten by Japanese sailors. Adopted as a mascot by the HMS Gnat before she was a year old, her life in combat began. All of her adventures can never be known; despite occasional disappearances in the midst of chaos, Judy many times simply danced back, spirited as ever, when all hope of her survival had been relinquished. The descriptions offered here of conditions in the Pacific theater are harrowing. Almost every page of that portion of Judy's life and that of the men with whom she served chronicles the "mud, slime, insects, rain, and soul-killing humidity" of the jungles, and fierce sun, flies, lack of fresh water, constant bombardments by the Japanese on the beaches, and, once interned, that army's cruelty toward their captives.

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