

Guam War Dog Memorial

INTRODUCTION

Guam will always remember its 1944 liberation from Japanese occupation and honor the U.S. Marines who risked and gave their lives to make it happen. But, there are also “the few, the proud, the Marines” who made the ultimate sacrifice on all fours – 25 faithful canines from the 2nd and 3rd War Dog Platoons.

Perched prominently at a small parcel near Sumay on Naval Base Guam is a large, granite monument with a life-size noble, bronze figure of a Doberman pinscher, named Kurt. Kurt saved the lives of 250 U.S. Marines and was the first war dog to be killed in action on Guam. Inscribed in gold letters on the base of the Guam War Dog Memorial are the names of 25 dogs, most of whose graves surround it.

Captain William Putney was a young Marine veterinarian who was present on Asan Beach during the Battle of Guam in 1944. In a subsequent memoir, Putney recalled his experience of tending to Kurt, who had been severely injured during the invasion:

“I hastily hooked up an IV bottle and inserted the end of the tube into the vein of Kurt’s right foreleg. I put a half-grain of morphine into the tube in Kurt’s foreleg. He let out a big sigh, closed his eyes and went to sleep. The explosion (by a Japanese mortar shell) had done considerable damage; the top of his spine was blown off in the thoracic area, just behind his shoulders. The spinal cord was plainly visible because there was no hemorrhage at the site. I carefully inserted forceps beneath the muscle tissue and loosened it on both sides, pulling over just enough to cover the cord, and sutured it in place. I feared that the wound would kill Kurt if the tissue over the spine swelled enough to exert pressure on the cord, or, if Kurt lived through the first phase of the operation without swelling, infection set in. We had no penicillin or other antibiotics and no medication to stop inflammation and swelling...I could only keep Kurt out of pain and wait for the passage of time to determine the outcome.

During the night, Kurt began to have convulsions from the pressure of the swollen back muscles forcing themselves against his spinal cord, so I added Nembutal to the IV to sedate him. Gradually, the dosage had to be increased to control the deadly spasms. Sixteen-inch shells were still coming in from the battleships offshore and shaking the earth as they hit. To protect Kurt’s fragile back from the impact, I gathered him in my arms. At 3 A.M. Kurt stopped breathing. Exhausted, I laid Kurt down and fell asleep with my head on his chest.”



Kurt's statue at the Guam War Dog Memorial. *Photo by Carla Smith, 2014*

Excerpted from *Stars and Stripes Guam*, September 10, 2014 by Oscar Johnson and William Putney's *Always Faithful: A Memoir of the Marine Dogs of WWI*, Dulles, Virginia, Potomac Books; pp. 162, 163, & 165.

GENERAL CITATION

About this lesson

This lesson plan, written by Jim Healy and Carla Smith, is about the War Dogs Memorial and Cemetery located across from Sumay Cove Marina on U.S. Naval Base Guam. The information provided is based on the actual site and other source materials regarding the roles of dogs during World War II on Guam and subsequent conflicts up to their roles in the modern military.

Where it fits into the Curriculum

Topics: This lesson can be used in middle and high school U.S. History courses, as well as History of Guam courses covering World War II.

Time Period: 1942 to the present

Relevant United States History Standards for Grades 5-12

Era 8: The Great Depression and World War II (1929-1945)

Standard 3A – The student understands the international background of WWII.

Standard 3B – The student understands World War II and how the Allies prevailed.

Standard 3C – The student understands the effects of World War II at home.

National Council for Social Studies (NCSS) Standards

Theme I: Culture

Standard B – Students give examples of how experiences may be interpreted differently by people from diverse cultural perspectives and frames of reference.

Theme II: Time, Continuity, & Change

Standard A – Students demonstrate an understanding that different people may describe the same event or situation in diverse ways, citing reasons for the differences in views.

Standard C – Students compare and contrast different stories or accounts about past events, people, places, or situations, identifying how they contribute to our understanding of the past.

Theme III: People, Places, & Environments

Standard G – Students describe how people create places that reflect ideas, personality, culture, and wants and needs as they design homes, playgrounds, classrooms, and the like.

Theme IV: Individual Development & Identity

Standard B – Students describe personal connections to place – especially place as associated with immediate surroundings.

Standard G – Students analyze a particular event to identify reasons individuals might respond to it in different ways.

Common Core Standards

English Language Arts Standards History/Social Studies for Grades 9-10

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.9-10.1 = Cite specific textual evidence to support analysis of primary and secondary sources, attending to such features as the date and origin of the information.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.9-10.2 = Determine the central ideas or information of a primary or secondary source; provide an accurate summary of how key events or ideas develop over the course of the text.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.9-10.4 = Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including vocabulary describing political, social, or economic aspects of history/social science.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.9-10.9 = Compare and contrast treatments of the same topic in several primary and secondary sources.

Objectives for Students

1. Research historical markers, statutes, monuments and or memorials in their local community to find out if the information provided is historically accurate.
2. Understand and explain the various capacities in which the Marine Corps used dogs during WWII.
3. Analyze the impact that the Marine dogs had on the Battle of Guam (July 21 to Aug. 11, 1944) as well as on the overall war effort in the Pacific.
4. Identify subsequent wars and conflicts in which dogs have aided the military and explain the changing roles of the dogs in the modern military.

Materials for students

1. Three readings: The first reading provides a first-hand account of the use of war dogs on Guam during World War II; the second reading covers the evolving roles of military dogs in subsequent American wars and conflicts (i.e., Korean, Vietnam, Iraq and Afghanistan Wars and the hunt for Osama bin Laden); the third reading provides the history of the war dog cemeteries and the War Dog Memorial in Guam.
2. Two maps: The first is a map of the Battle of Guam (July 21 to Aug. 10, 1944); the second is a map of the Pacific and the islands in which dogs were used during WWII.
3. Six photos: The first photo shows the head-on shot of the war dog , Kurt, perched atop the granite monument; the second photo shows the war dogs and handlers disembarking an amphibious landing craft on Guam; the next series of photos demonstrate the evolving roles of dogs in military operations after World War II; the final five photos show the various sites of the war dog cemeteries and the current war memorial.
4. One video: A 7-minute video clip (National Park Service):
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HB_f0lqbc3s

TEACHING ACTIVITIES

Getting Started

Inquiry Question



(Courtesy of Dobermans Den)

1. Examine the photograph closely. How would you describe the photograph?
2. What details (people, objects, activities, etc.) do you notice?
3. What other information – such as time period, location, reason photo was taken – can you gather from this photo?
4. What kind of emotions do you think the dogs and the men are experiencing?
5. What questions do you have about the photograph? How might you find answers to these questions?

SETTING THE STAGE

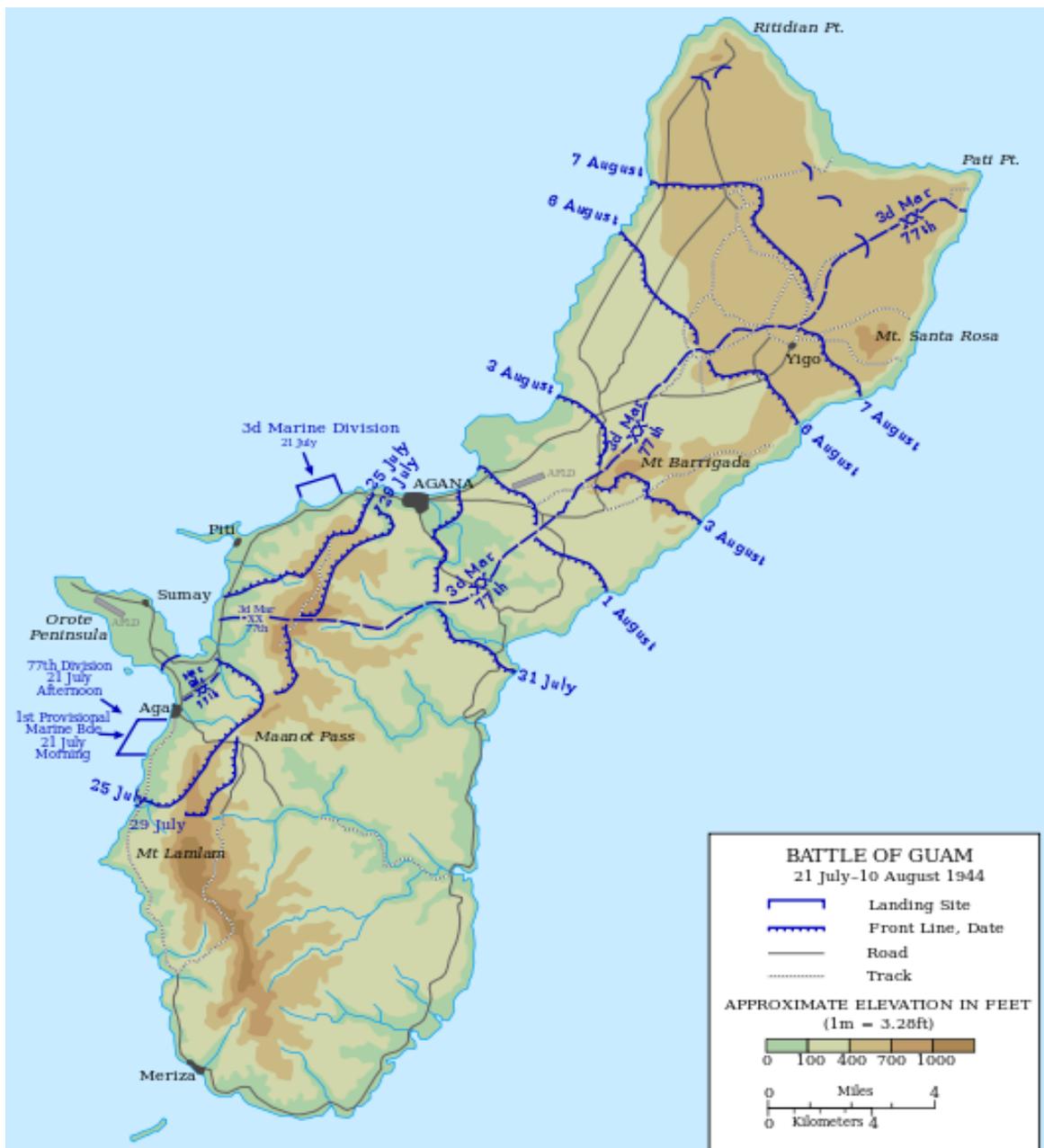
The United States of America was thrust into WWII at 7:55 a.m., Sunday, December 7, 1941, when air and naval forces of the Empire of Japan suddenly attacked the American Pacific Fleet, anchored at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. A few hours later at approximately 8:10 a.m. on Sunday, December 8th, the American colonial possession of Guam came under attack when Japanese planes based on Saipan bombed and strafed the island. Two days later on December 10th, the Japanese invaded the island and quickly overwhelmed the small American detachment of Marines. Thus began nearly three years of Japanese occupation of Guam and the colonization of its people.

As the American war effort geared up and the United States started to go on the offensive (Guadalcanal, August of 1942) against the Japanese, American soldiers soon learned that fighting the Japanese meant fighting to the death. The Germans and Italians in the European Theater would surrender when they were surrounded; the Japanese would not, leading to horrific casualty rates among soldiers and Marines fighting in the Pacific. After the Guadalcanal Campaign in early 1943, the Marine Corps decided to train dogs to act as sentries because the Japanese had repeatedly infiltrated American lines at night, causing many deaths. It was at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, that the Marine Corps set up its war dog training company and assigned Lt. William Putney, who was also a veterinarian, as one of its line officers, along with Lt. Bill Taylor. The Marines believed that if they could train the dogs to alert without barking of an approaching enemy, the American could turn the tables on the Japanese.

Civilians donated dogs to the Marine Corps and the dogs were trained along with their handlers to sniff out the enemy and silently alert their handlers, detect bombs and booby traps, and provide perimeter security. Dogs were used in WWI, mostly by the Germans, French and British as messenger dogs and the Red Cross dogs located wounded soldiers on the battlefield. The Americans were slow to recognize the valuable contributions that canines could provide...until WWII.

Dogs and handlers began their training in June of 1943 and the 2nd and 3rd Marine War Dog platoons were formed. Six months later in February of 1944, they were given their marching orders: report to Camp Pendleton, California and await orders for deployment overseas. The Marines and their devil dogs would get their first taste of combat when they received orders to partake in the liberation of Guam, scheduled for July 21, 1944.

LOCATING THE SITE



(Courtesy of National Park Service)

1. Identify the two invasion beaches.
2. List the location of the final battle of Guam.
3. How long did it take for the Marines to liberate Guam? What are the dates?

LOCATING THE SITE



(Pacific Theater, 1942. *Courtesy of The History Place*)

The article, "USMC War Dogs in World War II – Marine Corps University," can be accessed at: www.mcu.usmc.mil/historydivision/pages/frequently_requested/War-Dogs.aspx. Use this link to answer the Questions 1 and 3 below:

1. Marine dogs were used on many Pacific Islands during World War II. Name those islands.
2. To which island groups do Bougainville, Peleliu, and Saipan belong? Conduct research on the Internet and locate the island groups on the map above.
3. In what capacity were war dogs used in the occupation of Japan?

DETERMINING THE FACTS

Reading 1: "War Dogs Make Japs Miserable"

GUAM ISLAND, July 27 (1944) (AP) - In the camps of Uncle Sam's battle-hardened devil dogs on Guam Island the leathernecks never tire of praising the faithful American dogs of war that have saved many lives.

The dogs, given into war service by owners, have been of great value in ferreting Jap snipers and uncovering Nippon soldiers hidden in caves. Many have died in the commission of what the marines call heroic deeds.

"Lucky" a Doberman, was sent to the battlefields by his owner, Henry G. Heinrichs, of Jackson Heights, Long Island, N.Y.

On Guam, Lucky was found crouched close to his wounded handler in a gully near a concrete bridge over the Asan River where they had flushed 10 Jap snipers during the night. The bullet-riddled bodies of Nipponese lay under the bridge where they had been wiped out by a marine detail.

He Wouldn't Let Anyone Approach His Dead Master

When the marines started to give first-aid to the wounded handler, Lucky growled. But he let them work on his master. When the latter died, Lucky moved to the side of the body and would not permit anyone to approach. Finally Sergeant Vincent Dentino of East Boston, Mass. slipped a noose over the dog's head and pulled him away. The sergeant said, "That's the way these war dogs are- one man dogs."

The provisional war dog company on Guam is commanded by Lt. William Taylor of Union, La.

"Kurt" was a Doberman Pincer owned by Mrs. Bruce W. P. Edgeston of Baltimore. He was up front one dark night with his handler when they spotted a Jap soldier in the brush. The handler tied Kurt to a tree and slipped up on the enemy but was wounded in an exchange of fire.

Dogs Are Credited With Saving Lives of Many Yanks

Marines found the wounded handler and took him back to an aid station. They did not find Kurt, who had been hit by fragments of a mortar shell. Kurt, chewed his leash until he was free. He picked up the trail of his handler and raced to the aid station. There, he was given blood plasma but he died of a back wound after an operation.

Kurt was one of four war dogs killed during the early fighting on Guam. Another was "Skipper," a Labrador retriever, sent to war by Donnie Phillips of Anaconda, Mont. Still another was "Tippy," an Eskimo husky, owned by Victor Lunardini of Chicago.

Two war dogs, "Mitzi," owned by Oliver L. Zeleny of Kyattsville, Md., and "Duchess," owned by James Reece Duncan, Alexandria, Va., became mothers only a few weeks before the Guam invasion. Nevertheless they went ashore with the first assault waves and have made some Jap snipers very unhappy.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Define the following words: Leathernecks, Devil Dogs, Handler, Yanks, Jap, Nipponese (*Discuss negative connotations of Jap and Nipponese)
2. According to the article, how did the Marine Corps obtain their dogs?
3. Conduct research to discover the name of Lucky's handler. Where he was from?
4. What made Mitzi and Duchess unique?

Reading #1 is a news article from the Farmville Herald, in Farmville, Virginia, on July 27, 1944, and an excerpt from William W. Putney's, Always Faithful: A Memoir of the Marine Dogs of WWII. Dulles, Virginia: Potomac Books, 2003. Page unnumbered.

DETERMINING THE FACTS

Reading 2: Saluting K-9 Courage

K—9 CORPS

Dogs have been assisting human military efforts at least since the ancient Assyrians used them 1,000 years ago. During the Middle Ages, war dogs – like knights – even wore coats of mail. More recently, Benjamin Franklin suggested that dogs become a part of the colonial militia. But America’s military did not get serious about canine soldiers until World War II. (The Allied used 30,000 dogs in World War I – 7,000 were killed).

In 1942, the “K-9 Corps” began training dogs for military service. Before World War II ended, more than 12,000 four-footed enlistees (or more likely, draftees) were giving new meaning to the terms “dogface” and “dog tags.” Most of these animals served as stateside sentries or with Coast Guard beach patrols, but many were sent overseas.

The canine soldiers of World War II began as privates and received promotions based on time in service. Those that hung around for five years might achieve the grade of master gunnery sergeant. Some dogs eventually outranked their handlers. When the war ended, military authorities shipped canine veterans home from overseas, gave them honorable discharges, and returned many to their civilian owners. Some of these dogs even received medals.

Later, another 1,500 dogs served in Korea, and 4,000 more in Vietnam. A few canine soldiers also went to the Persian Gulf where one spent so much time in the desert sun that her normally dark coat turned blond. American dogs also went into Kosovo with NATO troops last spring. In all, an estimated 30,000 doges have served in America’s armed forces over the years.

“Dogs can be a huge military asset,” says Michael Lemish, former dog handler in Vietnam and author of the book, *War Dogs: A History of Heroism and Loyalty* (1999). “We haven’t begun to tap their full potential.”

A SELECT BREED

Decades ago, the military accepted a host of breeds – everything from sheep dogs to schnauzers – but gradually the field narrowed mainly to German shepherds (for their intelligence and trainability) and Labrador retrievers (for their superior noses).

During World War II, civilians volunteered their dogs for military service. But since 1946, the military has purchased its canine soldiers. Today, a canine fit for service costs about \$4,000 to buy and \$30,000 to train.

Some four-footed inductees may simply be asked to guard a military installation the way they would a home. Others are trained (basic lasts 12 weeks) as scouts, trackers, messengers or detectors of mines, booby traps, explosives and enemy soldiers.

In most cases, it is the superior canine sense of smell and hearing that make these dogs so valuable. Properly trained, military dogs can detect hidden enemy soldiers at 1,000 yards, hear the whine of a gentle breeze blowing over a tripwire, and smell the breath of underwater saboteurs coming through a reed.

Dog handlers quickly learn to pay close attention to such subtle canine signals as a cocked ear, stiffened tail, or raised hairs on the animal's back.

GENUINE HEROS

Every campaign has its own – sometimes well publicized – canine heroes. Chips, a combination shepherd-collie-husky, achieved fame in World War II by supposedly capturing “single-pawedly” the six occupants of an enemy machine gun nest in Sicily – after being hit with a rifle bullet.

Other acclaimed canine combatants of that war were the Dobermans that served on Guam in 1944. One of these, Kurt, saved the lives of 250 Marines when he warned them of Japanese troops ahead. Kurt died in the ensuing action.

During the Korean War, the German shepherd, York, reportedly led 152 patrols without losing a single man. York belonged to the highly decorated 26th Infantry Scout Dog Platoon.

And in 1966, Nemo – another German shepherd – returned with much fanfare from Vietnam, where he was wounded after discovering Vietcong infiltrators at Tan Son Nut Air Base. The discovery reportedly prevented much loss of life and equipment.

But plenty of canine heroism – especially in Vietnam – never got much press. Like the day the German shepherd, Bruiser, dragged his wounded handler, John Flannelly, to safety – taking two bullets in the process (both Bruiser and Flannelly survived).

Or Duke, taking shrapnel that would have killed handler, William Latham, if it had not hit the German shepherd first. Or Buck, alerting handler, Dennis Jefcoat, to the tripwire just in front of them. “From that moment on my life was completely dependent on him,” Jefcoat says.

Indeed, it was in Vietnam that canine soldiers truly showed their mettle, moving far beyond their previously common roles as sentries and guards. In Vietnam, each dog was assigned a single handler, and the pair often became each other's best friend – sharing rations, sleeping together and depending on one another's skills to stay alive.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How many dogs served in the U.S. military during World War II?
2. Approximately how many lives did Kurt save on Guam?
3. How many military dogs served in the Korean War?

4. What were York's contributions to the Korean War (1950-1953)?
5. How many military dogs served in Vietnam?
6. Did dogs have military rank? If so, what rank were they assigned?
7. What are the two breeds of dogs preferred by the U.S. military today? Explain why the military prefers those particular breeds.
8. List five ways the military utilizes dogs today. How have the dogs' roles changed since World War II?

Reading #2 is an excerpt from Gary Turback's article, "Saluting Canine Courage," Veteran Foreign Wars Magazine, Kansas City, Missouri, February 2000.

DETERMINING THE FACTS

Reading 3: Devil Dogs on Guam

By August 10, 1944, 2,200 American men and 25 dogs were dead, but the island was secured. So valued were the war dogs of Guam that 24 were buried in a section of the temporary cemetery created for the men with whom they had fought (one dog was buried at sea before the invasion). At some point, they were each given a small headstone with a single name.

During Guam's liberation, Marines relied on man's best friend, Dobermans, German Shepherds, Labradors and a few mixed breed mutts (boonie dogs) to sniff out enemy soldiers hiding in caves or carry needed medical supplies. They also warned against enemy attacks as they spent the night alongside the dogs in foxholes, and conducted more than 350 patrols.

According to surviving veterans, many of the Marines owe their lives to these faithful canines. In one incident alone, "Kurt", the Doberman whose regal likeness tops the Marine War Dog Memorial monument, saved the lives of 250 Marines when he silently warned them of Japanese troops ahead, according to several published accounts. "Kurt," "Lucky," and "Skipper" as well as other dogs alerted the leathernecks to the impending Japanese mass banzi attack on the night of July 25, below Asan ridge, saving hundreds of lives. Such incidents made for powerful bonds between the dogs and their handlers. "In these battles, as in their training, the men learned to depend on their dogs and to trust their dogs' instincts with their lives," veterinarian William W. Putney writes in his book, *Always Faithful: A Memoir of the Marine Dogs of WWII*.

"These dogs lived in foxholes with their men. They went on and led over 350 patrols. Their handlers killed 301 enemy soldiers with the loss of only one of my men on patrols. So the fact that these dogs were killed instead of us and kept us from ever being ambushed or surprised at night makes them heroes in my mind," related Dr. Putney.

Putney and fellow Lt. Bill Taylor helped train the dogs at Camp Lejeune, NC, in 1943 and were the commanding officers of the 2ND and 3RD War Dog Platoon and Putney was veterinarian for both platoons during the battle of Guam. "The dogs proved so valuable on Guam that every Marine division was assigned a war dog platoon and they paved the way for the many dogs that have followed them in the armed services, most famously in Vietnam." Putney lobbied, successfully, to have war dogs detrained and returned to civilian life after the war. Only 4 out of 549 could not be detrained and had to be destroyed.

At the end of the war, among all of the dogs in service, six were awarded Silver Stars, seven received Bronze Stars and 40 received Purple Hearts. In 1946, the awards were rescinded as an assault to the dignity of their human counterparts. Additionally, when the human dead of Guam were eventually exhumed for return to national cemeteries and their families, the residents of Guam's War Dog Cemetery were

left behind. In the decades to come, their resting place would almost disappear into the nearby sea and the overgrowing jungle.

Dr. Putney was also the driving force behind the Guam War Dog Memorial – America’s first memorial dedicated to military working dogs. When Putney returned to Guam in 1989, he had trouble finding the War Dog Cemetery. He learned that it had been scrambled by a typhoon in 1963 and moved hastily inland (north to Dededo). When he discovered the new location, it was in disrepair and overgrown with weeds, a place of “disgrace and dishonor.” He began an effort to have the dogs properly and permanently reburied. The War Dog Memorial and Cemetery on Guam is the most unique of all dog memorials because it encompasses an actual cemetery developed as the animals became fatalities then interred in one spot during the islands liberation in World War II. The Marine War Dog Cemetery was rededicated on July 20, 1994 at the fiftieth-anniversary celebration of Guam’s liberation at the U.S. Naval Base on Orote Point.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Define these words: Banzi, and Rescind.
2. What were the criteria for a Marine to be awarded a Purple Heart, a Bronze Star, and a Silver Star during World War II?
3. Do you believe the medals awarded to the dogs should have been rescinded? Explain your answer.
4. Name the breeds of war dogs used by the Marines during the Battle of Guam.
5. According to the reading, approximately how many Americans were saved by the war dogs on Guam?
6. Name the two individuals who led the Marine War Dog platoons on Guam? Which of these was the driving force in creating the Marine War Dog Memorial?
7. When was the Marine War Dog Memorial moved to Orote Point? What was the reason for the relocation?

Reading #3 is adapted from New York Times article, “War Dogs of Guam,” published on December 2, 1011; Chris Dickon’s book, The Foreign Burial of American War Dead: A History, Jefferson, North Carolina, McFarland Publishing Company, 2011; and William Putney’s Always Faithful: A Memoir of the Marine War Dogs of WWII; Dulles, Virginia, Potomac Books, 2003.

VISUAL EVIDENCE

Photo Set #1



Courtesy of National Geographic Magazine, June 2014

Staff Sgt. Thomas Sager carries the body of Dinomt, a dog killed by an explosive while on patrol in Kandahar. His death spared the lives of nearby soldiers. "It's like losing a teammate," says Major Hux (at left).



Dog and handler searching for explosives during WWII. *Courtesy of U.S. Marine Corps.*



“Away they go—Spano and Lobo dive out of the plane for the long awaited jump.” *Photo Credit: Jonathan F. Abel Collection/U. S. Marine Corps Archives & Special Collection*



Army Staff Sgt. Terry Young and his German shepherd, Wero, search for explosives at a checkpoint in Kandahar, Afghanistan. More than 500 U.S. military working dogs are deployed worldwide at any given time. Courtesy of *National Geographic Magazine*, June 2014

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What do these pictures tell us about the relationship between the dogs and their soldiers/marines?
2. Look at the first photo. What do you think Staff Sergeant Sager is thinking as he carries the body of Dinomt?
3. How do you think a handler feels when his dogs is injured or dies in combat? How do you think a dog feels when his handler is injured or dies?

VISUAL EVIDENCE

Photo Set #2



Original War Dog Cemetery in Asan, Guam, 1945. *Courtesy of National Park Service.*



2nd site of War Dog Cemetery in Dededo, Guam (1963-1994). *Courtesy of National Park Service*



War Dog Memorial and Cemetery at Orote Point, Guam 2014. *Photo by Carla Smith*



War Dog Memorial and Cemetery at Orote Point, Guam, 2014. *Photo by Carla Smith*

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Name the locations of the three dog cemeteries.
2. What are some similarities between the three cemeteries?
3. What are some differences between the three cemeteries?
4. What does the motto, “Semper Fidelis” mean? What organization uses this motto? How does this motto relate to the memorial?
5. What do the letters “DVM” and “CO” after William Putney’s name indicate?
6. Of the 25 dogs listed on the memorial, why do you think Kurt’s likeness was chosen for the memorial’s statue?
7. What is the significance of the date 21 July 1994 in Guam history?

VISUAL EVIDENCE
PHOTO #3: APPLICATIONS



Petty Officer 2nd Class Blake Soller and his military working dog, Rico, pay tribute to the Guam War Dog Memorial on Naval Base Guam, Oct. 27, 2006. The memorial was dedicated in 1994 to 25 military dogs who died in the 1944 liberation of Guam. *Courtesy of U.S. Navy.*

1. What do you think Petty Officer Soller is thinking as he views the memorial? Why do you think he brought Rico to the memorial with him?
2. Why is it important to remember the sacrifices of the war dogs and their handlers?
3. What lessons can we learn from the lives of the dogs and their handlers?
4. What did you think of dogs prior to this lesson? What do you think about dogs now?
5. How does learning about the participation of the war dogs and the Marines in Guam's liberation impact your life?

PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER

The following activities will help students gain a greater understanding of the significance of Marine War Dogs in the context of the Pacific Theater of World War II, subsequent wars, and within the modern community.

Activity 1: War Dogs of the Pacific - Beyond Guam

Choose an island in the Pacific Theater during WWII (besides Guam) in which Marine War Dogs were used. Using a tri-fold poster board (basically 3 poster boards), provide the following:

Panel 1: A large detailed topographical map of the island you chose. The map should include all of the following:

- Colored terrain features (rivers, mountains, lakes, etc.)
- Capital and/or other major cities, towns or villages
- Specific battle sites on the island (including landing sites of the Americans)
- A color-coded legend showing American and Japanese positions throughout the battle (include the dates of the battle)

Panel 2: Photos and captions: Gripping, moving and or relevant photos of the war dogs and their handlers with relevant captions. Use this section to tell the story of the island's battle. Include the following information:

- Names of the Marine units involved in the battle
- The number of war dogs and handlers used in this battle and any names of the Marine war dogs and their handlers
- Number of dogs and handlers killed and wounded
- Number of marines killed and wounded and the total number of Japanese soldiers killed and or captured.

Panel 3: Create your own monument/memorial for the war dogs of that island campaign. The project may be a drawing, painting, or computer-generated. (Do not do a replica of the Guam War Dog Memorial).

Activity 2: Tribute to the Guam's War Dogs

Students will have three options to present information on the Marine War Dog Cemetery and Memorial on Guam.

1. Write an ode to the War Dogs of Guam. Listed below are some topics students may incorporate in the song:

- Specific dogs involved in the Battle of Guam;
- War dog training;
- The relationship between the dogs and their handlers;
- The invasion of Guam;
- The War Dog Memorial and Cemetery, and/or

The dogs' contributions towards winning the Battle of Guam;

2. Create a drawing or a painting on a standard poster board of the Marine War Dog Cemetery and Memorial on Guam;

3. Create a replica of Marine War Dog Cemetery and Memorial on Guam. The replica may be made of any material the student wishes and the dimensions should be no larger than 4x4x4.

If students choose Options 2 or 3, they must submit a one-page (single-spaced) report on the dogs' contributions during the Battle of Guam and the history of the current war dog memorial. Cite sources.

Activity 3: Working Dogs on Guam in 2014

Identify the ways in which dogs are used to improve our community and the organizations that utilize these dogs. Select one of the organizations identified and create one of the following regarding that organization:

- * a video (DVD)
- * a slideshow with captions and appropriate background music (DVD)

The DVD should include an interview of someone who handles/trains dogs from one of the following:

- * U.S. Customs at the airport and or port authority
- * Guam Police Department
- * U.S. Naval Base and or Andersen Air Force Base
- * Private dog trainers on Guam (search and rescue training)
- * Specifics of dog training
- * How the dogs are procured and their origins
- * Preferred breeds and the reason for preference
- * Dog handler training requirements
- * Dogs' length of service (average)
- * Retirement

Activity 4: Connecting Animals, World War II, and the Local Community

Arrange a field trip to a local veterinarian hospital or animal shelter. Students will create a tri-fold pamphlet or DVD that will details various aspects of the organization. Have students prepare for the site visit beforehand (i.e., interview questions, materials/equipment needed, etc.). Students' presentations must educate the public on the services rendered by the organization, career opportunities, and the humane treatment of animals. Students must also articulate how the visit contributed to a greater understanding of the War Dogs of Guam that they could not get out of a text-book or classroom visual.

SUPPLEMENTARY RESOURCES

The Dogs of War: The Courage, Love, and Loyalty of Military Working surveys the amazing range of jobs that military working dogs now perform, such as explosives detection, patrol, and hunting for enemy combatants. The author also writes about the physical and mental dangers that dogs face from military service; the canine path from service to retirement; and finally how soldiers and civilians can help the cause by fostering military puppies or adopting retirees.

War Dogs: A History of Loyalty and Heroism, by Michael G. Lemish, is a poignant tribute to the fifty thousand canine soldiers who have served our country, often at the expense of their own lives. Lemish's accounts of the ups and downs of our military dog programs and our soldiers' personal experiences with their dogs.

Always Faithful: A Memoir of Marine Dogs of World War II tells of the immense courage and incredible sacrifice of the Guam's War Dogs, the Third Dog Platoon who fought during the Battle for Guam. It is a stirring tribute to the four-legged Marines who helped liberate Guam.

Guampedia Foundation, Inc.

Guampedia Foundation is a non-profit organization. Guampedia, Guam's Online Encyclopedia, is a community project to create a comprehensive online encyclopedic source about the history, culture, and contemporary issues on Guam.

National WWII Museum New Orleans

The National WWII Museum has a digital collection of thousands of oral histories and photographs. Their website, <http://nationalww2museum.org/index.html>, tells of the story of Guam's war dogs.

National Park Service

The War in the Pacific National Historical Park provides detailed resources about World War II in Guam. Their website, www.nps.gov/wapa, showcases World War II photos and multimedia. It also includes links to pages, digital books, and articles (sponsored by the National Park Service) relating to battles across the Pacific Theater, including Guam, the war dogs, and the dogs' cemeteries and memorial.

Pacific Historic Parks

As the cooperating association of the War in the Pacific National Park, Pacific Historic Parks is a non-profit organization that seeks to perpetuate the memory and appreciation of the events and people involved in the sites the organization serves. It supports the National Park Service in the education, preservation, development, and interpretation of World War II in the Pacific. Their website, www.pacifichistoricparks.org, provides general information about War in the Pacific National Historical Park and educational programs offered to the public.