

= Judy (dog) =

Judy (1936 ? 17 February 1950) was a ship 's dog on board HMS Gnat and HMS Grasshopper stationed on the Yangtze before and during World War II . She proved able to hear incoming aircraft , providing the crew with an early warning . After part of the crew transferred from the Gnat to the Grasshopper in June 1939 the ship was sent to Singapore after the British declaration of war on Germany . There she was on board the ship during the Battle of Singapore , which saw Grasshopper evacuate for the Dutch East Indies . It was sunk en route , and Judy was nearly killed having been trapped by a falling row of lockers . She was rescued when a crewman returned to the stricken vessel looking for supplies .

On the deserted island with the surviving crew , Judy managed to find a fresh water source saving them all . They made their way to Singkep in the Dutch East Indies and afterwards to Sumatra aiming to link up with the evacuating British forces . After trekking across 200 miles of jungle for five weeks , during which Judy survived an attack from a crocodile , the crew arrived a day after the final vessel had left and subsequently became prisoners of war of the Japanese . She was eventually smuggled into the Medan camp , where she met Leading Aircraftsman Frank Williams for the first time , who she would go on to spend the rest of her life with . Williams convinced the camp Commandant to register her as an official prisoner of war , with the number ' 81A Gloerger , Medan ' . She was the only dog to be registered as a prisoner of war during the Second World War .

She moved around several more camps , and survived the sinking of the transport ship SS Van Warwyck where in the aftermath she saved several passengers from drowning . Les Searle from the Grasshopper smuggled her once again into the next camp , where she was reunited with Frank Williams . After the end of the war , Judy 's life was put in danger once again . She was about to be put to death by the Japanese guards following a lice outbreak amongst the prisoners . However , Williams hid the dog until the Allied forces arrived . Searle , Williams and others smuggled Judy back to the UK aboard a troopship and she spent the next six months in quarantine after arriving . She was awarded the Dickin Medal by the PDSA , considered to be the animals ' Victoria Cross . Judy died in 1950 in Tanzania from a tumour , after travelling with Williams there to work on a groundnut food scheme . Her Dickin Medal and collar were subsequently put on display at the Imperial War Museum in London as part of ' The Animal 's War ' exhibition .

= = Early life = =

Judy was a pure @-@ bred liver and white Pointer . She was born in a dog kennel in Shanghai , China , in 1936 . She had escaped as a puppy , and had been kept in a back alley by a shopkeeper until she was six months old . Following an altercation with some sailors from a Japanese Navy gunboat , she was found by a worker from the kennel and returned there . She was originally called Shudi , which was anglicised to become Judy .

In the autumn of 1936 , the crew of the Insect class gunboat HMS Gnat voted to get a ship 's mascot . This was due in part to the competitive nature of the gunboats , with HMS Bee , Cicada and Cricket already having mascots of their own . The Captain and the Chief Bosun 's mate , Lt. Cmdr. J. Waldergrave and Chief Petty Officer Charles Jefferey , purchased Judy from the kennels and presented her to the crew . It was hoped to train her as a gundog , but the men began to treat her like a pet instead , and from her first day Jefferey 's log stated that " our chances of making her a trained gundog are very small . "

= = Military career = =

= = = HMS Gnat = = =

Able seaman Jan " Tankey " Cooper was given the job of being the " Keeper of the Ship 's Dog " , who was also the ship 's butcher . She was given an open box and a blanket to sleep on , and was

trained to stop her from going into certain areas of the ship , such as those inhabited by the Chinese cooks as they disliked her . In November 1936 , she fell overboard into the Yangtze River and was spotted by Jefferey . The ship was called to a full stop and a power boat deployed to retrieve her . The incident was recorded in the ship 's log as a man overboard exercise . After undergoing trials following a refit , the Gnat met up with the Ladybird , who also had a ship 's dog . However Judy had to be kept away as while he took a fancy to her , she did not care for him . In the early morning after the Ladybird departed , Judy alerted the ship to the presence of river pirates who were about to board the Gnat in the darkness . The attack was easily repelled as the pirates lost the surprise element . Several days later , Judy was taken ashore with a shooting party for the first time but she was unsuccessful as a gundog . Throughout her stay on the Gnat , the crew repeatedly tried to use her as a gundog , each time resulting in a failure .

Judy was known for pointing out the approach of hostile Japanese aircraft long before any of the human crew could hear them . This first occurred prior to the outbreak of war , when the aircraft would fly low over the Gnat with Judy barking at them until they had passed . On an outing to Jiujiang , Jefferey took Judy for a walk outside of the city but she ran ahead , pulling him with her . He realised as he looked back that she had been pulling him away from a Leopard . In November 1937 , the Gnat met with the American river gunboat USS Panay . After the Panay held a party for the two ship 's companies , the Gnat crew departed and only realised afterwards that Judy was not with them . They contacted the Panay via signal lamp , but they insisted that they had not seen her . The following morning , the crew heard from a Chinese trader that Judy was on board the Panay after all . In retaliation , a party boarded the American vessel and stole the ship 's bell . Afterwards they contacted the Panay and offered them the bell back in return for Judy . She was returned within the hour .

In early 1938 , both Jefferey and Cooper were sent back to Britain as part of the crew rotation . While docked in Hankou , Judy took a liking to another Pointer on board a French gunboat Francis Garnier . The two ship 's companies held an impromptu wedding ceremony for the two dogs . The French Pointer , Paul , remained on the Gnat for three days before returning to his ship . Judy fell pregnant , and gave birth to thirteen puppies . Ten of them survived and were eventually given away to a variety of sources including the Francis Garnier and the American gunboat USS Guam . Judy was involved in an incident in October that year that resulted in the ending of her trips ashore in Hankou . Whilst being walked by two sailors from the Gnat , they were confronted by Japanese soldiers who pointed a loaded rifle at Judy . One of the soldiers was thrown into the Yangtze River . During the following days , several Japanese officers came on board the Gnat and it was decided that it would be better for Judy to stay on the ship .

= = = HMS Grasshopper = = =

In June 1939 , several Locust class gunboats arrived on the Yangtze to take over operations from the existing Insect class vessels . Part of the crew of the Gnat transferred to HMS Grasshopper , including Judy . Following the British declaration of war on Germany in September that year , several of the river gunboats , Grasshopper included , were redeployed to the British base at Singapore . Judy was initially sea sick , but the crew ensured that she was properly exercised and by the time the ship arrived on station , she had recovered .

Initially the stay at Singapore was peaceful , and Judy stayed with a customs official and his family for a week ashore . The ship was rarely deployed until January 1942 when it was deployed with other gunboats to provide covering bombardments along the coast of Malaya for retreating troops , and occasionally to carry out evacuations . The Battle of Singapore took place between 8 ? 15 February . By 11 February , Grasshopper and its sister ship Dragonfly were the largest vessels left at Singapore . On 13 February , the vessels were ordered to evacuate personnel and leave Singapore . The ships left at 9pm that evening , and travelled together .

The ships headed for Singkep Island in the Dutch East Indies , hoping that the island group it sat in could be used as a hiding place . As they approached , Judy indicated the approach of Japanese aircraft and the anti @-@ aircraft gunners took up their positions in readiness . The Grasshopper

was hit with a single bomb before the planes departed . Judy was below decks when the planes returned . The Dragonfly was hit by three bombs and sank quickly . The Grasshopper was hit by a further two bombs , and the order was given to abandon ship as a fire spread close to an ammunition compartment . Boats were lowered and the crew and evacuees were ferried just over a hundred yards to shore whilst the Japanese planes strafed the vessels . It was only when they were ashore that they realised Judy was not with them .

The island they arrived on turned out to be uninhabited with little food and no apparent water . After a camp had been set up ashore , Petty Officer George White was sent back to the still floating Grasshopper to scavenge supplies . He boarded the vessel and descended below decks to search for any items that might be of use . Whilst there , he felt Judy in the darkness , trapped under a row of lockers . He constructed a raft out of materials on the Grasshopper and rowed the items , along with Judy , back to the island . The lack of water was becoming an issue , until Judy began to dig at a point on the waterline . It took a couple of minutes , but Judy managed to unearth a fresh @-@ water spring and was credited with saving everyone 's lives .

Five days after the Grasshopper was bombed , a tongkang arrived which took the survivors to Singkep . There they left their wounded , and Judy along with the other survivors travelled two days later on a Chinese junk to Sumatra where it was hoped that a British force remained which could take them to Sri Lanka . Upon arrival , they took the vessel up a series of rivers until they narrowed so much that the junk could not pass . They then embarked on a 200 @-@ mile cross @-@ country trek across the island in an attempt to reach Padang . During the journey through the jungle , Judy was attacked by a crocodile and suffered a cut to her shoulder . After a journey of five weeks , they arrived at Padang - but missed the last evacuation ship by a day as the Japanese were due to arrive to take over the city at any moment . After the arrival of the Japanese , the survivors from the Grasshopper along with Judy , were taken into custody as prisoners of war .

= = = Prisoner of war = = =

= = = = Medan = = = =

The crew became prisoners of war , initially held in Padang , but were soon moved onto Balawan . They smuggled Judy on board the transport trucks , hidden under empty rice sacks . After five days they arrived at the Gloergoer prisoner of war camp in Medan . Chief Petty Officer Leonard Williams recorded , " thus began 3 @-@ 4 years of the most horrific labour , torture , starvation and every degradation the Japanese could inflict on us " . Once Judy arrived in the Medan camp , she met Leading Aircraftman Frank Williams , who adopted her and shared his daily handful of rice from August 1942 onwards . In the camp Judy would intervene by distracting the guards when they were administering punishment . She was the only animal to have been officially registered as a prisoner of war during the Second World War , after Frank William 's intervention to protect the dog from the guards , who would often threaten to shoot Judy as the dog growled and barked at them . Williams managed to convince the camp Commandant , who was drunk on sake , to sign the registration papers with the promise of one of Judy 's future puppies .

Judy 's official prisoner @-@ of @-@ war name was ' 81A Gloergoer , Medan ' . During her stay at the camp , she would alert the prisoners to the approach of the Japanese guards and also if other animals such as snakes or scorpions were around . She also made excursions from the camp , looking for food , and would bring back rats and snakes to Williams . Judy had another group of puppies , of which five survived . One of them was given to the camp Commandant as promised and another puppy was smuggled into the women 's camp along with any food that the men could spare . A further puppy was given to the Red Cross in Medan , one more was beaten to death by a drunken guard and the final one remained in the camp after Judy and Williams left .

In June 1944 , the men were transferred to Singapore aboard the SS Van Warwyck . Dogs were not allowed on board , but Frank Williams managed to teach Judy to lie still and silent inside a rice sack . When he boarded the ship , Judy climbed into a sack and Williams slung it over his shoulder to

take on board . For three hours the men were forced to stand on deck in the searing heat , and for the entire time Judy remained still and silent in the bag on Williams 's back . The conditions on board the ship were cramped with more than 700 prisoners . On 26 June 1944 , the ship was torpedoed . Williams pushed Judy out of a porthole in an attempt to save her life , even though there was a 15 feet (4 @. @ 6 m) drop to the sea . He made his own escape from the ship , not knowing if Judy had survived . Over five hundred of the passengers did not survive .

= = = Return to Sumatra = = =

Frank Williams was recaptured and was sent to a new camp without news of Judy 's survival . However , stories began being told of a dog helping drowning men reach pieces of debris on which to hold , and others recalled how the dog would bring them flotsam to keep them afloat . The dog would also allow men to hold onto her back while swimming them to safety . She had been found in the water by other survivors of the sinking , and once again hidden from the Japanese . Upon arrival at a dock , she was found by Les Searle who tried to smuggle her onto a truck with him . However , she was discovered by a Japanese Captain who threatened to kill her - whose order was countermanded by the newly arrived former Commander of the Medan camp and she was allowed to travel with Searle onto the new camp .

Williams was giving up hope of finding Judy when she arrived in his new camp . " I couldn't believe my eyes . As I entered the camp , a scraggy dog hit me square between the shoulders and knocked me over ! I'd never been so glad to see the old girl . And I think she felt the same ! " After four weeks at the new camp , they were moved back to Sumatra by paddle steamer . They had been told that it was a " special mission " to pick fruit . Instead they spent a year in Sumatra , with the Japanese using the men to cut through the jungle to lay railway track . Rations were a handful of maggot @-@ ridden tapioca a day , which Frank continued to share with Judy . She also proved useful in conducting trades with the locals , as she would indicate when someone was hiding near to the track . Her barking deliberately alerted the guards to when there was something too large for her to handle in the jungle , such as tigers or elephants . Frank credited Judy with saving his life during his time spent there , " She saved my life in so many ways . The greatest way of all was giving me a reason to live . All I had to do was look at her and into those weary , bloodshot eyes and I would ask myself : What would happen to her if I died ? I had to keep going . Even if it meant waiting for a miracle . "

= = Post war and awards = =

Once hostilities ceased , the prisoners of war were told to remain until allied troops came to relieve the Japanese guards . But during this point a lice outbreak led to the Japanese condemning Judy to death . Williams hid the dog for two days from the guards until the Allies arrived .

Judy was smuggled aboard the troopship Antenor heading to Liverpool . Together with Williams , Searle and two others , Judy managed to avoid the dock police and was delivered into the care of the ship 's cook , who ensured that she was fed on the voyage home . Upon her return to the UK , Judy stayed for six months in quarantine in Hackbridge , Surrey . Williams and Judy were reunited on 29 April 1946 and headed immediately to London .

Williams was given the White Cross of St Giles , and Judy was awarded the Dickin Medal , " the animals ' VC " , in May 1946 by Major Viscount Tarbat MC , chairman of the Returned British POW Association , and was enrolled as the association 's only canine member . Her citation reads : " 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 " . The Dickin Medal is often referred to as the animal metaphorical equivalent of the Victoria Cross .

She was interviewed by the BBC for their coverage of the London Victory Celebrations of 1946 on 8 June and her barks were broadcast to the nation on the radio as part of the programme In Town Tonight . Frank and Judy spent the year after the war visiting the relatives of PoWs who had not

survived ; Frank remarked that Judy always seemed to give a comforting presence .

On 10 May 1948 , the pair left to work on a government @-@ funded groundnut food scheme in East Africa . There was some difficulty in getting permission for Judy to travel , and it was feared that she and Williams would be split up . This issue was promoted in the Evening Standard , and after the involvement of William Lever , 2nd Viscount Leverhulme , permission was given for Judy to travel with Williams . She had a third and final litter of puppies during her time in Africa . After two years there , Judy was discovered to have a tumour , and was euthanized at the age of 13 . Frank spent two months building a granite and marble memorial in her memory , which included a plaque that told of her life story .

On 27 February 1972 , Judy was remembered in church services across Gosport and Portsmouth , and in 1992 her story was featured in the British children 's TV show Blue Peter . In 2006 her collar and medal went on public display for the first time in the Imperial War Museum , London , as part of " The Animals ' War " exhibition . It was presented to the IWM by Alan Williams , Frank 's son .