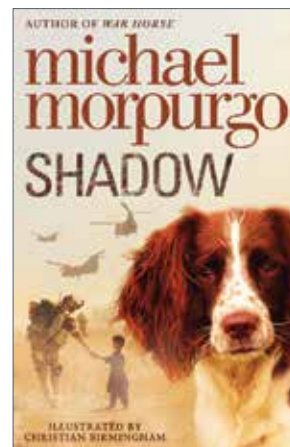


michael morpurgo



Shadow



Shadow – The Military Cross

'There is no doubt about it. We all know this dog. That dog, she is called Polly, and she's sniffed out more roadside bombs – the army calls them IEDs, Improvised Explosive Devices – than any other dog in the whole army. Seventy-five. Today was the seventy-sixth.'

(*Shadow*, Chapter 12, Quite a Hero, Page 139)

The dog is a hero in this story. Like so many other military animals, she has helped to save human lives.

There are lots of real-life stories about other animals who are heroes:

- **Driver**, the puppy who went to the First World War – and lived to come home again
- **Murphy**, the Gallipoli donkey, who became part of Australia's national consciousness
- **Sandy**, the only one of the splendid Waler horses ever brought back to Australia
- **Two carrier pigeons** of the Second World War awarded the animal's equivalent of the Victoria Cross
- **Gunner**, the dog whose amazing ears helped defend Darwin from enemy bombers
- **Judy**, the little Singapore mutt who gave hope to the women and children imprisoned at Changi
- **Cassius, Tiber, Marcus** and tracker dogs left behind in Vietnam
- **Sergeant Courage**, the eagle mascot, who went AWOL and was "busted"
- **Snappa**, the promiscuous crocodile who was promoted to Corporal
- **Makai**, an American-trained dolphin and his marine mammal companions, alongside whom Australian navy divers worked in Iraq
- **Simpson** and his donkey pals the SAS used in Afghanistan
- **Boris**, the sniffer dog, who saved an orphan girl in East Timor

www.anthonhillbooks.com/animalheroesmain

Using the books and the internet, find out as much as you can about one real-life animal hero.

Write a paragraph that includes all the key facts about why they are a hero.
