



by Meish Goldish

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New York, New York

Credits

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Three Heroes

One night in February 2010, more than 50 American soldiers were asleep inside a **military base** in Afghanistan. Unknown to the soldiers, a **suicide bomber** was quietly approaching the building where the soldiers slept. Wearing 25 pounds (11 kg) of **explosives**, he tried to sneak inside. Luckily, the enemy did not go unnoticed. Three dogs on the base spotted the bomber. First Sasha began to bark loudly. Then Target and Rufus jumped on the enemy and bit him.





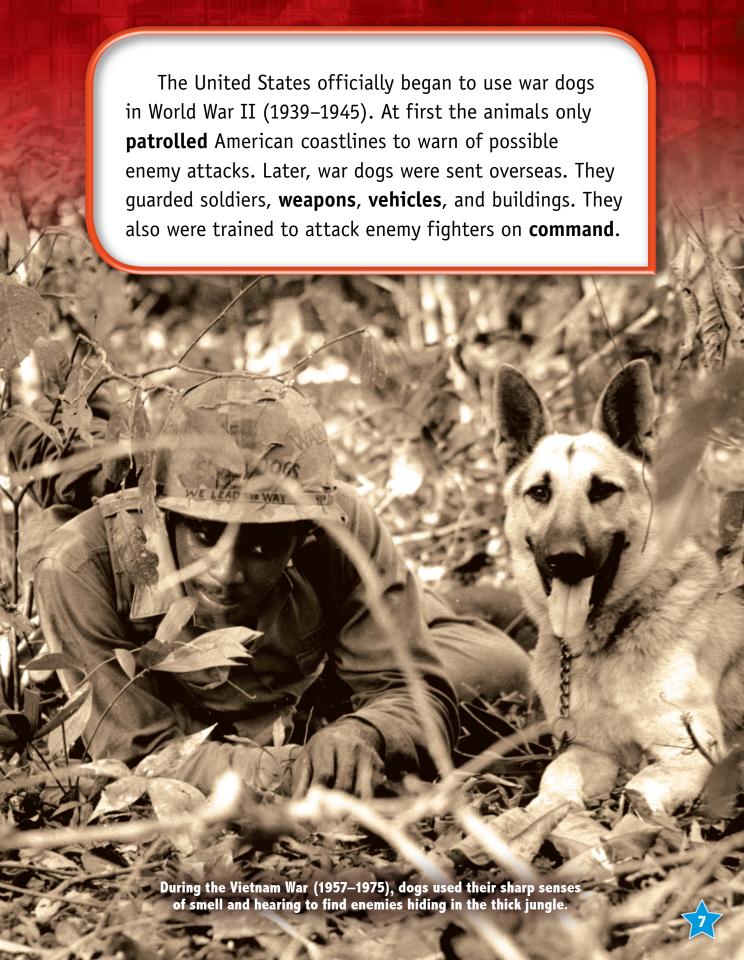
Unable to enter the building, the bomber set off his explosives by the door. The powerful blast injured five American soldiers—but all of them recovered from their wounds. The three brave dogs were praised as heroes. They had stopped an attack that could have killed many soldiers.



A Proud Past

Dogs like Sasha, Target, and Rufus have aided the U.S. **military** for more than 150 years. In the **Civil War** (1861–1865) and World War I (1914–1918), some soldiers brought their own dogs with them. Many of the **canines** served merely as **companions**. Others were used to deliver messages on the battlefield or to guard troops.





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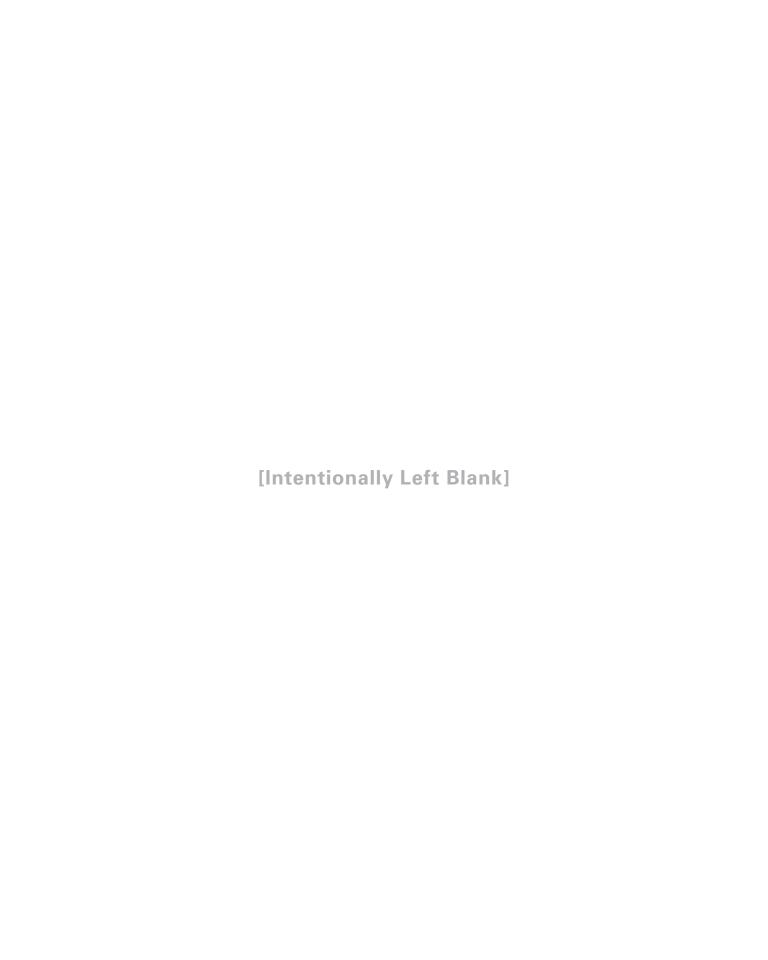
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To learn more about war dogs, visit www.bearportpublishing.com/AmericasAnimalSoldiers

About the Author

Meish Goldish has written more than 200 books for children. His book *Heart-Stopping Roller Coasters* was a Children's Choices Selection in 2011. He lives in Brooklyn, New York.







One night in February 2010, more than 50 American soldiers were asleep inside a military base in Afghanistan. Unknown to the soldiers, a suicide bomber was quietly approaching the building. Luckily, the enemy did not go unnoticed. Three dogs on the base spotted the bomber. First Sasha began to bark loudly. Then Target and Rufus jumped on the enemy and bit him, making it impossible for the bomber to set off his explosives inside the building. The brave canines had stopped an attack that could have killed many soldiers.

Look inside to learn more about Sasha, Target, and Rufus, as well as other dogs that help keep American soldiers safe. From sniffing out bombs to guarding troops, these heroic animals help out in ways that no humans ever could.

Dolphins in the Navy

Sea Lions in the Navy

Horses, Donkeys, and Mules in the Marines

War Dogs



