

**Devil Dog Canines:
A Line of Communication in World War II**

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The theme "Communication in History" was a difficult topic to land because of the numerous ways you could interpret it and the wide range of topics you could select from. I had plenty of topics drafted, ranging from the Underground Railroad to the role of music during World War II. As an avid dog lover, I came upon the topic of messenger dogs and how they helped during the war. I remember being told to think outside the box. I found the topic interesting and could be a good fit for the annual theme. After all, who can resist dogs? They are loyal and considered as man's best friend.

To start my basic research, I looked for information about messenger dogs and more specifically, their impact in battles. Due to COVID-19, I could not physically go to the neighborhood libraries or to the Marine Corps library. Thank goodness for technology -- I found most of my information from the internet. While making a rough draft of the navigation for my website, I began searching for deeper information such as stories and records referring to specific messenger dogs. The National Archives website was a great resource for the original pictures, documents, and documentaries about these heroic dogs. In addition, I also bought the book "War Animals: The Unsung Heroes of War," which gave me additional information, sources, and quotes to aid my project.

As someone with a strong preference for technology, the website category heavily appealed to me. I never used the NHD website builder before; however, after watching the step-by-step tutorials, I had little to no problem using and navigating the site. Furthermore, I have a background in coding and animation since I do robotics. My goal was to present clear and coherent information in a nostalgic way; therefore, I used the monochrome effect.

The service of the Devil Dog messenger canines relates to the annual theme because the messages that these dogs delivered were vital and made the difference between life and death for most Marines during the war. The work of these four-legged heroes resulted in enormous contributions to multiple victories of the United States and its allied countries during World War II, and to the improvement of war communications. Alongside the achievement of being war heroes, these dogs' stories and services helped inspire laws to protect the next generation of military working canines from unnecessary euthanasia or abandonment. Besides, these canines are *"not just a piece of equipment, but rather "heroes" and members of the military"* (The Animal Welfare Institute, 2012).