

SERGEANT STUBBY,
A DIFFERENT KIND OF NCO

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INTRODUCTION

Glendinning, Richard and Sally, Stubby, Brave Soldier Dog., Garrard Publishing Company, 1978.

CT Military History Department, "History and Adventure Stubby the Military Dog". 11/10/2005
<http://www.ct.gov/mil/cwp/view.asp?a=1351&q=257892&pp=12&n=1>

Governors Foot Guard, "A Connecticut Hero SGT Stubby".
<http://www.governorsfootguard.com/stubby/>

CT Military History Department, "History and Adventure Stubby the Military Dog". 11/10/2005
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- a. I will give the purpose and scope of my briefing to include outline and procedures and methodology.

BODY

- a. Introduction of Sergeant Stubby and his upbringing. (1.0 min)
- b. Sergeant Stubby and his introduction to the US Army. (2.0 min)
- c. Sergeant Stubby training and the lasting impacts on today's NCOs. (4.0 min)
- d. Sergeant Stubby's wartime duties and responsibilities may seem minor but paid huge dividends in today's Army (4.0 min)
- e. Sergeant Stubby and his role in sister services and how his actions effect today's sister services. (1.0 min)
- f. Protégées of Sergeant Stubby. (1.0 min)

CLOSING

- a. I will ask for questions (I will accept 2 question due to time constraints. I will keep each answer to less then one minute each)

- b. I will summarize, recap main ideas, and make concluding statement. Then conclude my briefing. (1 min)
- c. I will identify the next person to brief.

SERGEANT STUBBY, A DIFFERENT KIND OF NCO

Sergeant Stubby was different from most American Non-Commissioned Officers (NCOs), but as an NCO his contributions during World War I made an everlasting impact upon the NCO Corps and the United States Army. He had an exciting and colorful history in the American Army and one could easily see how different he was just by looking at him. He had four paws and a tail, Sergeant Stubby was a dog! Sergeant Stubby is America's most decorated war dog. Stubby was an orphaned puppy found in 1917 by PVT J. Robert Conroy. Conroy found him at the training camp of the 102nd Infantry Battalion, 26th "Yankee" Division, of the Connecticut National Guard, at the Yale University, football field (History and Adventure Stubby the Military Dog). PVT Conroy's lifelong relationship with Stubby started that day in 1917. Sergeant Stubby received his name because he was short and, well, "Stubby". He was an American Pit Bull and Bull Terrier-mix (Meet Sergeant Stubby, The Single Most Decorated Dog in American History). The characteristics of this mix are fiery temper, unmatched loyalty and a short stubby body.

Stubby trained with the soldiers of the 102nd Infantry, who were preparing for war, at Yale University for several months prior to their overseas departure. Training with the 102nd Infantry, Stubby learned how to salute with pride. Numerous reports and eyewitness accounts document Stubby's ability to salute while sitting down. When Private Conroy saluted, Stubby would raise a paw in a proud salute also. Drill and ceremonies were not the only skills Stubby learned; he also learned customs and courtesies as well. Stubby learned several bugle calls, and he would go to certain

locations in the camp depending upon which bugles calls were playing, knowing that PVT Conroy would be there also. During his tenure at the training grounds of the 102nd Infantry, Stubby learned his most valuable skill, the skill of building morale with his antics and his loyalty to his fellow soldiers. As the unofficial mascot of the 102nd, Stubby had a profoundly positive affect upon the Soldiers morale in the unit. Stubby continued learning skills as well as developing his moral building qualities until he left for the Great War in Europe.

PVT Conroy and members of the 102nd could not leave Stubby behind in the United States, so they smuggled Stubby onto the transport ship SS Minnesota that would take them across the Atlantic Ocean to the European theater. Stubby started the voyage under a jacket, on the day of departure to Europe, which would make him a hero and legend in his own time and start a new generation of NCO War Dogs for America. The coal bin was the first home for Stubby while on the ship. The bin served as a great hiding place for Stubby since officers never came to the coal room. Once out to sea Stubby spent the day hiding in the coal bin while the ships crew operated the ship, but at night Stubby spent time on the deck of the ship with Private Conroy. Stubby's trip across the Atlantic Ocean was eventful. A machinist's mate on the ship gave him his first set of official "Dog Tags". He also learned many of the marching drill routines with his spare time on the ship. He was able to follow Private Conroy and make the required changes in directions when given commands (Meet Sergeant Stubby, The Single Most Decorated Dog in American History). The commanding officer of the 102nd discovered Sergeant Stubby shortly after disembarking off the transport ship. Sergeant Stubby displayed his soldier skills to the commanding officer by demonstrating his ability to conduct marching

drills, answering bugle calls, and most of all, saluting. The commanding officer was so impressed with Stubby's ability to salute and to respond to bugle calls he allowed Sergeant Stubby to stay with the unit. Sergeant Stubby traveled to the frontlines under official military orders as the unit "Mascot". Stubby's trip across the Atlantic Ocean ended on 19 January 1918 when the 102nd arrived in Europe and by 5 February 1918, Stubby was on the frontlines living today's Warrior Ethos and leading from the front as all NCOs do.

Stubby became accustomed to the hazards of trench warfare, which was so common during World War I. Loud rifle fire, exploding artillery, and soldiers screaming happened so often that Stubby became immune to the loud and strange noises. Stubby spent his time in the trenches with the soldiers of the 102nd motivating them and serving as the key builder of morale under such harsh and inhospitable conditions. Learning new skills came naturally to Stubby; he quickly learned the dangers of gas warfare after he became a victim of a mustard gas attack. Nursed back to health at a field hospital Stubby developed a sensitive nose for mustard gas. This new skill would soon save several of the 102nd soldier's lives. Several weeks after his first exposure to mustard gas, Stubby sensed another gas attack, with his ultra sensitive canine nose. He ran up and down the trench line of the sleeping soldiers barking and nipping at their uniforms to warn them of the impending attack. Stubby was able to ensure the soldiers were awake, which allowed them to sound the gas attack alarm, and be ready when the gas crept over and into the trench. Stubby, knowing the hazards of mustard gas went to the end of the trench line until it was all clear of the mustard gas; he did not want to suffer another gas exposure. One of Sergeant Stubbys greatest accomplishments and his most famous wartime act was

the capture of an enemy spy (History and Adventure Stubby the Military Dog). A German spy had crept close to the allied trench line and was mapping out the trench network along the frontline of the 102nd. Stubby became suspicious after hearing an unusual noise and investigated the strange sounds just forward of the trench. Stubby crept over the trench and sensed a person hiding in the bushes just forward of the trench line. The person hiding in the bushes called out to Stubby, but Stubby was too smart to fall for the trap. He started barking and jumping which alerted the soldiers of the 102nd. The person in the bushes, realizing his compromised position and with no way to stop Stubby's barking, started to run back to the German lines. Stubby pursued him biting the spy in the back of the legs, and buttocks. Stubby stopped and restrained the spy until the soldiers of the 102nd could take the spy into custody (Stubby, Brave Soldier Dog). The Commander of the 26th "Yankee" Division officially promoted Stubby to the rank of Sergeant for his actions in the capture of the German spy. He earned a citation for his heroic actions on the battlefield and for placing his own life on the line for the safety and welfare of the soldiers. Sergeant Stubby's promotion to the Corps of the Non-Commissioned Officer Corps made him the first canine awarded the rank of Sergeant in documented Army History.

Sergeant Stubby possessed a great talent for finding injured and dying soldiers in "no mans land" (the area between the allied trench line and the German trench line). Sergeant Stubby would go forward of the trench lines daily, despite the dangers facing him, and find dying and injured soldiers. He then would lead medics to the soldiers who needed help. Sergeant Stubby saved several dozen soldiers by doing this courageous and unselfish act. Sergeant Stubby's wartime skills saved several soldiers in the trench lines

from gas attacks, from enemy spies, and helped find the dying and injured in no mans land. Sergeant Stubby lived the Warrior Ethos and Army Values every day on the battlefield of Europe.

The Red Cross received a very important patient in 1919; Sergeant Stubby suffered an injury and needed help fast. A German soldier threw a grenade and injured Sergeant Stubby and he was in need of emergency surgery because of the injuries. Sergeant Stubby not only recovered from the surgery and healed quickly in the Red Cross Hospital but he served as the single most successful morale builder the hospital had ever seen. Sergeant Stubby spent his days in the hospital by standing by the injured soldiers. The smiles he brought to their faces were invaluable in increasing the morale of the soldiers in the hospital. Sergeant Stubby received a Red Cross Award and Medal for his actions in the Red Cross Hospital and for his contributions to the increase in morale of the injured soldiers. General John “Black Jack” Pershing also awarded Sergeant Stubby an award from the Humane Society and a Medal of Valor for his actions in World War I.

The warring powers signed the Armistice in 1919 and now CPL Conroy readied Sergeant Stubby for the trip back to the United States. Sergeant Stubby received a warm welcome upon his return to America. The soldiers of the 102nd insisted that Sergeant Stubby lead the parade of the returning soldiers in New York City upon their return to the United States (A Connecticut Hero Sergeant Stubby). Sergeant Stubby wore a hand-sewn chamois coat decorated with Allied flags and his name stitched in gold thread, made by women from a local French village as show of appreciation, after hearing about Sergeant Stubby’s heroic actions. Sergeant Stubby marched past the United States President Woodrow Wilson on that day with the members of the 102nd Infantry.

Sergeant Stubby returned to the United States as a war hero and personally met with Presidents Wilson, Harding and Coolidge at the White House. He received a lifetime membership from the American Legion, American Red Cross, and the YMCA of America for his heroic actions in Europe (History and Adventure Stubby the Military Dog). Sergeant Stubby's adventurous and exciting life did not end after World War I. Corporal Conroy went on to attend the University of Georgetown Law School in 1921, and Sergeant Stubby came with him. Sergeant Stubby became the official mascot of the University of Georgetown and during halftimes at football games Sergeant Stubby entertained the crowds with his ability to push a football across the football field and other amusing antics. On 4 April 1926 Sergeant Stubby died of old age in the arms of his loving friend CPL Conroy. Sergeant Stubby enjoyed a rewarding and exciting life, and lived life to its fullest. Sergeant Stubby participated in 17 battles in WWI, and took part in four major offensive battles (Champagne-Marne, Meuse-Argonne, Aisne-Marne, Champagne, Soissons-Aisne, Belle Meuse, St. Mihiel, Lorraine) (History and Adventure Stubby the Military Dog). The Department of Defense credited Sergeant Stubby's actions when it developed the modern Military Canine Corps and the Military Working Dog Program. Other "War Dogs" have come after Sergeant Stubby like, Sergeant Smokey, a small little York Terrier during WWII, Sergeant Chips which received a Silver Star and Purple Heart during WWII. A modern and famous war dog is Sergeant Nemo, which was a German Shepherd from Vietnam, the first war dog from Vietnam to return with full honors. A famous war dog and beloved by our sister service the Marine Corps is CPL Chester the Bull Dog, the Official Mascot of the United States Marine Corps (History and Adventure Stubby the Military Dog). Military working dog NCO

heroes have been a critical part and success in battle for the United States Army for past 90 years (The Great War, Sergeant Stubby Over There). Dogs like Sergeant Stubby have ensured the success of the armed forces and added a key combat multiplier on today's battlefield. This all started with a little stray dog-named Stubby.

NCOs come in all shapes and sizes, races and colors and contribute to the Army in many ways. Sergeant Stubby had a profound effect on one unit's success, which in turn had an effect on the 26th "Yankee" Division's success in Europe during WWI. Sergeant Stubby's actions are a true testament that "Dogs are a Man's Best Friend". Sergeant Stubby will remain an American hero, and deserves a place in the United States NCO Museum located at Biggs Army Air Field, El Paso, Texas. Military Working Dogs have played a significant role in saving lives, and boosting the morale of soldiers through war from the beginning of this great country and Sergeant Stubby is the cornerstone of the Military Working Dogs Program. Military Working Dogs are saving lives on today's battlefields in Iraq and Afghanistan, the same way Sergeant Stubby saved so many lives during WWI. Sergeant Stubby lived by the Warrior Ethos 90 years ago and he is still an example for today's NCOs, who can learn something even from an "old" dog, loyalty and commitment to one another. He joined with courage and without hesitation, never leaving his soldiers alone. Sergeant Stubby lived the Army Values and by the Warrior Ethos that American Soldiers use today – I will always place the mission first. I will never accept defeat. I will never quit. I will never leave a fallen comrade behind. Sergeant Stubby is an American Soldier and NCO, a hero who lived this ethos.

Works Cited

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