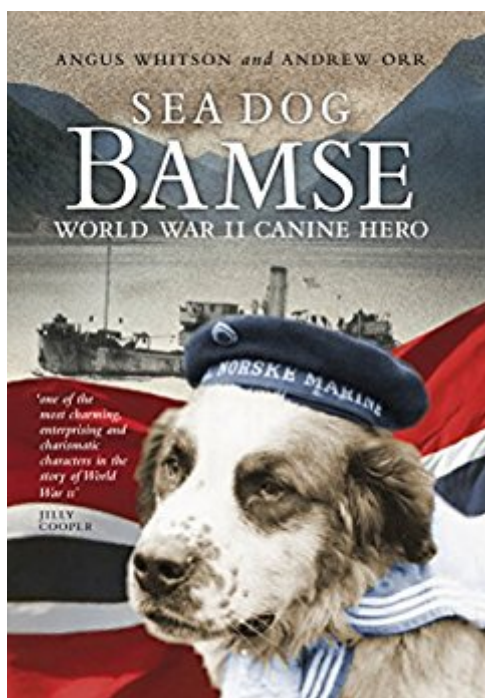


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Sea Dog Bamse: World War II Canine Hero



Synopsis

One of the most charming, enterprising, and charismatic characters in the story of World War II' - Jilly Cooper 'Prepare to read this fantastic story in one sitting. Very highly recommended' - Sea Breezes 'A well-researched, carefully crafted and hugely enjoyable account of one of the most remarkable animals to play a part in World War II' - Aberdeen Press & Journal This is the remarkable - and bestselling - story of one of the Second World War's most unusual animal heroes - a 14-stone St Bernard dog who became global mascot for the Royal Norwegian Forces and a symbol of freedom and inspiration for Allied troops throughout Europe, and captured hearts on both sides of the North Sea even sixty years after his death. From a happy and carefree puppyhood spent as a family pet in the Norwegian fishing town of Honningsvåg, the gentle giant Bamse followed his master at the outbreak of the war to become a registered crew member of the mine-sweeper Thorodd. Often donning his own steel helmet as he took his place in the Thorodd's bow gun turret, Bamse cut an impressive figure and made a huge contribution to the morale of the crew, and he gallantly saved the lives of two of them. After Norway fell to the Germans in 1940, the Thorodd operated from Dundee and Montrose, where Bamse became a well-known and much-loved figure, shepherding the Thorodd's crew-members back to the boat at pub closing time, travelling on the local buses, breaking up fights and even taking part in football matches. Mourned both by locals and Norwegians when he died in 1944, Bamse's memory has been kept alive both in Norway, where he is still regarded as a national hero, and in Montrose, where a larger-than-life statue of him was unveiled in 2006 by hrh Prince Andrew. Written from extensive source material and eyewitness accounts, Sea Dog Bamse is a fitting tribute to the extraordinary life of an extraordinary dog.

Book Information

File Size: 747 KB

Print Length: 224 pages

Publisher: Birlinn (May 1, 2011)

Publication Date: May 1, 2011

Sold by: Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B006WB2B12

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Not Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #1,004,389 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #117

inÂ Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Ethnic & National > Scandinavian #131 inÂ Books > History > Europe > Scandinavia > Norway #244 inÂ Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > History > Europe > Scandinavia

Customer Reviews

Like one of your other reviewers, I bought the book mainly because i love Dogs. I have never owned a Sint Bernard, and, after reading this book, I think it is my loss never to have owned one. BAMSE began life in Norway just as Germany was Occupying Norway, and Bamse's owner, a Trawler owner, set off to Scotland with Bamse, to do his bit for his Country. As much as the Sailor did for Britain, Bamse did more for the Community's Morale. He saved two people from death, he became everyone's dog. He even had his own Bus Pass, so he could travel when he wanted. BAMSE died of old age, and his Funeral was attended by hundreds. Just a few years ago, Britain's Prince Andrew unveiled a Life size Statue, to commemorate his Bravery. His grave is maintained by local people, it can be visited, and if anyone wants to leave a Seashell on his Grave they are welcome to do so. If you like dogs, this book is a must for you. Buy it, you will never regret it. Jon Muir--Australia

Well written, historically informative and telling the important and beautiful story of the Sea Dog Bamse, who so much deserves the posthumously admiration and recognition as the War Hero, Norwegian Marine Mascot and supportive friend his was to his fellow shipmates during the WWII.

I always look for destination relevant books when I travel. I wish that I had this book with me on my trip to Norway last summer because I visited many of the places where faithful Bamse served his heroic duties. Fast read and suitable for most readers.

I am a dog lover and, in view of a cruise to Norway on board the Coastal Express, I started some research on the internet. This is how I discovered the extraordinary story of Bamse. I then bought the book. It is the most touching story that I have read in years. The courage, loyalty and intelligence of Bamse are outstanding. There is a statue of Bamse in Honningsvag and I hope to see it while cruising to Nordkapp to pay tribute to this beautiful dog in all senses of the word..

Not knowing what to expect, but being a dog lover, I ordered this book. It is a great story about a puppy that went off to war with his master. They served in the Norwegian Navy during World War II while their country, Norway, was occupied by the Germans. Nice photos help bring the dog to life. The detailed story of the crew, the ship, and the men who loved their big mascot is an enjoyable read.

Took a Norwegian Fjords cruise and learned all about Bamse so when I saw the book - I had to read it. Not disappointed!!!

Got the book while researching WWII history of Montrose, Angus, Scotland and really enjoyed the telling of Bamse's tale. Very entertaining and touching. Disney should make a movie of it some day.

I bought this book because I have had Saint Bernards in my home for most of the 40 years I have been married. They are extraordinary dogs and Bamse proves that they always have been special. There is a lot of World War II technical descriptions in this book, but they don't interfere with the actual story of Bamse and his legacy. I really enjoyed reading this book and would recommend it to anyone who wants to know about the qualities a Saint Bernard can introduce to their acquaintances and friends.

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