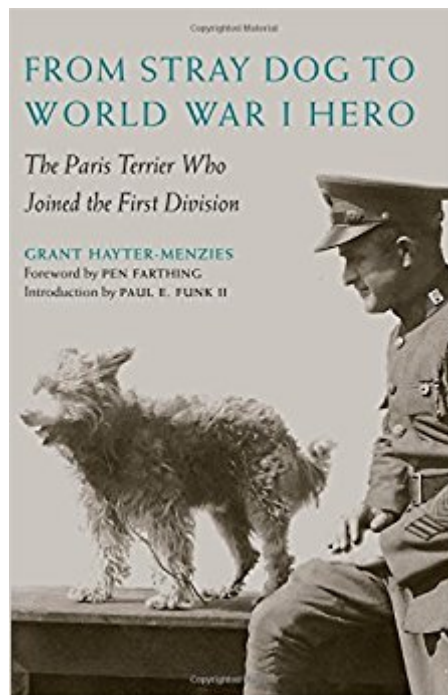




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# From Stray Dog To World War I Hero: The Paris Terrier Who Joined The First Division



## Synopsis

On the streets of Paris one day in July 1918, an American doughboy, Sgt. Jimmy Donovan, befriended a stray dog that he named Rags. No longer an unwanted street mutt, Rags became the mascot to the entire First Division of the American Expeditionary Force and a friend to the American troops who had crossed the Atlantic to fight. Rags was more than a scruffy face and a wagging tail, however. The little terrier mix was with the division at the crucial battle of Soissons, at the Saint-Mihiel offensive, and finally in the blood-and-mud bath of the Meuse-Argonne, during which he and his guardian were wounded. Despite being surrounded by distraction and danger, Rags learned to carry messages through gunfire, locate broken communications wire for the Signal Corps to repair, and alert soldiers to incoming shells, saving the lives of hundreds of American soldiers. Through it all, he brought inspiration to men with little to hope for, especially in the bitter last days of the war. *From Stray Dog to World War I Hero* covers Rags's entire life story, from the bomb-filled years of war through his secret journey to the United States that began his second life, one just as filled with drama and heartache. In years of peace, Rags served as a reminder to human survivors of what held men together when pushed past their limits by the horrors of battle. Watch a book trailer.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Carefully researched and movingly written." —Kate Kelly, *America Comes Alive* (Kate Kelly *America Comes Alive*) "I recommend this book for any animal lover." —Jess Creason, *Read*

This! Book Reviews! (Jess Creason Read This! 2015-10-28)"A great read."•Don Messerschmidt, Portland Book Review (Don Messerschmidt Portland Book Review 2016-06-09)"A vivid, riveting, true tale of courage and compassion. . . . I fell in love with Rags, and I'll be first in line for the movie!"•Maria Goodavage, author of Top Dog: The Story of Marine Hero Lucca (Maria Goodavage 2015-03-18)"Simply brilliant. An inspired storyteller. . . . Those who consider themselves dog lovers should read this book."•Mary Elizabeth Thurston, author of The Lost History of the Canine Race (Mary Elizabeth Thurston 2015-03-18)"Utterly charming, and if you love dogs, this will prove irresistible!"•Jeffrey Moussaieff Masson, author of Dogs Never Lie about Love (Jeffrey Moussaieff Masson 2015-03-18)

Grant Hayter-Menzies is the author of several books, including The Empress and Mrs. Conger: The Uncommon Friendship of Two Women and Two Worlds; Lillian Carter: A Compassionate Life; and Shadow Woman: The Extraordinary Career of Pauline Benton. Pen Farthing was named the 2014 CNN Hero of the Year and is the founder and chairman of Nowzad Dogs. Maj. Gen. Paul E. Funk II is a commanding general of the First Infantry Division in the U.S. Army and has commanded the Special Forces units with military detection dogs while in Afghanistan. The author will donate a portion of each book's sale to Nowzad Dogs, a nonprofit that reunites soldiers who served in Afghanistan with the dog or cat they adopted while deployed.

This is a treasure, the true story of Rags, Hero dog of World War One. Everyone should know the story of Rags and not be lost to history. Someone ought to make a movie about Rags. It's not just what he did during the war, but the incredible life he lived once he was smuggled to the United States. I just love Rags! I have given this book as a gift and plan to give more so more people know this incredible story. It should be in every library. People need to remember these brave Hero dogs!

An amazing story and great read for dog and history lovers. It opened my eyes about the extraordinary efforts and accomplishments of animals assisting and aiding their handlers in the severe trials of wartime. Rescued off the streets by a pair of soldiers after a night on the town, it is the story of how a homeless Parisian mutt became a true hero soldier. The bonds of respect and love that existed between him and his subsequent guardians and vast communities of military and civilian admirers will renew one's faith in humanity. The many anecdotal descriptions of Rags just being a dog will make you smile and cry for every canine who's ever entered your heart and

touched your soul.

great book

Of the many stories to emerge from the war to end all wars, the most endearing of all are the stories concerning animals and their role in the war. These animals, from horses to carrier pigeons to dogs all played a vital part and very few have gained "hero" status. One of these is the subject of this book - a terrier - mix Parisian street walker named "Rags" by the 1st Infantry Division soldier who picked him up in July, 1918. During the next four months "Rags" would see combat in three bloody campaigns; carry messages through gunfire and alert soldiers to incoming shells until he and his handler were gassed in the Meuse-Argonne. Both were rotated home where Sgt. Donovan succumbed to his wounds and "Rags". although dealing with a constant cough lived to the ripe old age of 19 as a veteran of the Big Red One. This is a compelling story of a dog's devotion to his human savior and to his fellow soldiers.

"Never forgotten!" These words, or similar ones, are often printed and spoken with regard to those who have valiantly served in our armed forces. But in reality many are forgotten, especially as time grinds on. And even more specifically if the war veteran wasn't human but an animal. Yet author Grant Hayter-Menzies has sought to be faithful to these words by recalling the story of Rags in his new 216 page hardback, "From Stray Dog to World War I Hero: The Paris Terrier Who Joined the First Division." It's a perfect book for dog lovers and World War I buffs alike. This twelve chapter book easily recounts the feats of Rags in the final months of World War I after having been found around Paris and adopted by two Doughboys. Hayter-Menzies weeds through news stories, biographies and other accounts to piece together when Rags arrived on the scene, how he courageously and helpfully served with Sgt Donovan, and was wounded with him just before the war came to a close. The rest of the book chronicles the secretive and circuitous route Rags took to end up on U.S. soil, sought to remain by Donovan's hospital bed as he lay dying, and how his life remained adventurous until his own passing in the mid-1930s. The story has highs and lows; it is filled with life, and touches the edges of death. The author also weaves in stories of other War animals in brief re-tellings of their courageous exploits. "From Stray Dog to World War I Hero" is an enjoyable work well worth the cost and time invested to read it. The author has made Rags' life accessible so that he will never be forgotten. I highly recommend the book, whether you're a dog lover or not!

A dog's love is a joy forever--and Rags, mascot of the First Division in World War I, is proof positive of this. The French stray turned American military hero died almost 80 years ago, but the tale of his bravery in battle and his loyalty in peace is as alive as ever, thanks to Grant Hayter-Menzies's splendid new book, "From Stray Dog To World War I Hero: The Paris Terrier Who Joined the First Division". Reading about the adorable Rags's exploits, you will understand why descendants of his guardian, Major Hardenbergh, still visit his grave to leave flowers and show that he is not forgotten. And thanks to this book, you won't be able to forget him, either! I surely won't. He's a fabulous dog. And the book is beautiful -- and beautifully written.

This is the story of Rags, a scruffy, taffy-colored terrier with floppy ears and a fluffy curling tail. Nothing is known of his earliest days when he lived on the streets. And little is told of all his war experiences with Sgt. Jimmy Donovan. He served as a message runner and helped find breaks in communication lines. He and Donovan suffered a gas attack, which left him with a cough for the rest of his life and within a couple years claimed Donovan's life. Rags was smuggled aboard the hospital ship taking Donovan back to the US, and aboard the train that took them to Fort Sheridan in Illinois where Donovan died. Much is revealed about his life afterwards when he joined an army family and moved to army bases in New York and the Washington area. We learn a lot about the pet cemetery where he is buried. An early book written while Rags was still alive is frequently referred to, with speculation on how much is fact or fiction. He was often taken to reunions and seemed to remember the men he'd served with. He regularly wandered off, perhaps always searching for Donovan. Despite his rough start to life and his war service, he lived a long life, dying at age 19. I received a free copy in exchange for my honest review.

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