

Smoky, the World War II Yorkie War Hero

[Home](#) » [Blog](#) » Smoky, the World War II Yorkie War Hero
(Copied from Barkingbitches.com)



When people think of rescue and therapy dogs, they usually picture large breeds. But canine heroes come in all sizes.

Smoky, a four-pound Yorkshire Terrier, was found by an American soldier in the New Guinea jungle during World War II in February, 1944. The soldiers initially thought Smoky belonged to the Japanese, but she didn't understand commands in either Japanese or English, and her origins remained a mystery. According to Corporal William A. Wynne, "Smoky was found in the jungle foxhole by Ed Downey, a friend, who not liking dogs, gave it to motor pool Sgt Dare from whom I bought her the next day for two Australian pounds so Dare could get back in a poker game."

She spent the next eighteen months backpacking with Corporal Wynne and going on combat flights. They lived in tents in the New Guinea jungle and the Rock Islands and shared C-rations. According to Bill Wynne's book, *Yorkie Doodle Dandy: Or, the Other Woman Was a Real Dog*, Smoky learned to walk on a drum, peddle a scooter made from an orange crate, control cable pulleys, and walk on a tight rope blindfolded. She even learned how to spell her own name from letters cut from cardboard boxes. Smoky spent hours dangling in a pack, and even jumped from a 30-foot tower in a specially made parachute. Wynne says that Smoky saved his life by warning him of incoming shells, and she was awarded eight battle stars.



She became a war hero on January 1945 in the Luzon campaign when she helped engineers build an airbase at Lingayen Gulf. A telegraph wire needed to be run across an airplane strip through a 70-foot pipe that was only eight inches in diameter. Construction work would take the strip out of action and expose American planes to Japanese bombs. Instead, Smoky pulled the cable through the pipe, over soil that had sifted inside, giving her only a few inches of headroom. Her efforts turned a three-day dangerous project into an exercise of a few minutes.



Smoky is credited with being the first Therapy Dog, entertaining troops in camps and hospitals. She began her work in July 1944 at the 233rd Station Hospital in New Guinea by visiting the wounded. When the war ended, Wynn smuggled Smoky home to Cleveland in a customized flight oxygen mask carrying case. She died in February 1957 at the age of 14. There's a monument to her at Eastlake Doggie Park, inscribed, "World War II's littlest soldier and most famous war dog." Another monument was unveiled on Veterans Day, 2005 in Cleveland Metroparks, Rocky River Reservation in Ohio, dedicated to "Smoky, the Yorkie Doodle Dandy, and Dog of All Wars."

Source: Examiner.com May 8, 2009