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NATIONAL ARCHIVES | CATALOG

Coast Guard Canines

Today we salute the hard working canine mascots of the U.S. Coast Guard.



"Knobby" at the wheel. The mongrel mascot of a Coast Guard 83-foot rescue cutter stayed with his shipmates in the historic sweep across the English Channel. National Archives Identifier 205582997



"Kodiak" is the mascot aboard a Coast Guard-manned invasion transport, and is a veteran of Kiska, Tarawa and Saipan. National Archives Identifier 205582985

During World War II, Coast Guard mascot dogs worked across seaman's duties. From assisting in sickbay to providing docking support, these seafaring companions were an essential part of the crew. You can find photographs of the US Coast Guard Mascots within Record Group 26: Records of the U.S. Coast Guard, Series: Photographs of Activities, Facilities, and Personalities, 1886 – 1967, RG-26-G.



Determined to follow his Coast Guard mates to the beach, "Hobo" hops onto a war machine which is about to be hoisted into a landing craft. National Archives Identifier 205582904

Mascot of the fighting Coast vessel in the Atlantic, "Sparky" stays topside during

moments of excitement. His battle station is flexible. [National Archives Identifier 205583186]



Pete the Pooch, Able Seaman and LeHavre's mooring expert, knows all about ships and the way to moor them. He's handled many vessels in his war-time life, such as this Coast Guard 83 foot cutter about to be tied up. Pete goes into the sea after the line, brings it ashore and then makes the vessel fast. It's all in the day's work of a sea-dog. National Archives Identifier 205583269



Coast Guard dogs also provided comfort and companionship to recovering service members.



If ever a dog smiled - it is "Doc Sunshine," self-appointed official cheerer upper below decks on a Coast Guard-manned troop transport ferrying back casualties from Europe. All day long, "Doc Sunshine" makes his rounds from bunk to bunk. National Archives Identifier 205582889

Back from Peleliu, Coast Guardsmen and Marines are warmly welcomed by the mascot dogs of a Coast Guard-manned invasion transport. The pups that go along to the Pacific invasions are good companions and true pals. Here three happy mutts gather with three convalescent fighting men to catch a bit of the sun. National Archives Identifier 205582949



Of course, they also managed to find themselves in some trouble…

“Bozo,” mascot aboard a Coast Guard combat cutter in the Far North, chewed the captain’s shoes. Court-martialed and confined to the brig for conduct unbecoming a ship’s mascot, “Bozo” was defiant. But when he stared through the porthole and saw the liberty party getting ready to cast off, he turned on his most repentant expression. The skipper relented, and Bozo went ashore in search of more trouble. 26-G-3411. National Archives Identifier 205582880





Wearing a “sad sack” expression, “Rowdy” heads for his court martial at the San Diego, Calif., U.S. Coast Guard patrol Base. For being AWOL three hours while on sentry duty the Coast guard pooch was demoted from first class to second class specialist, lost extra rations, and given time in the brig. Tender hearts caused restoration of his first class rating the following day. 26-G-3042. National Archives Identifier 205582937

But at the end of the day, they are all good dogs! Check out many more amazing images of service members and their animal companions (including cats, parrots, chickens, goats, and even a kangaroo!) currently available in the National Archives Catalog.





Seagoin' Pooches Stand Inspection on Transport. National Archives Identifier 205582952

The Good Companions. National Archives Identifier 205582982

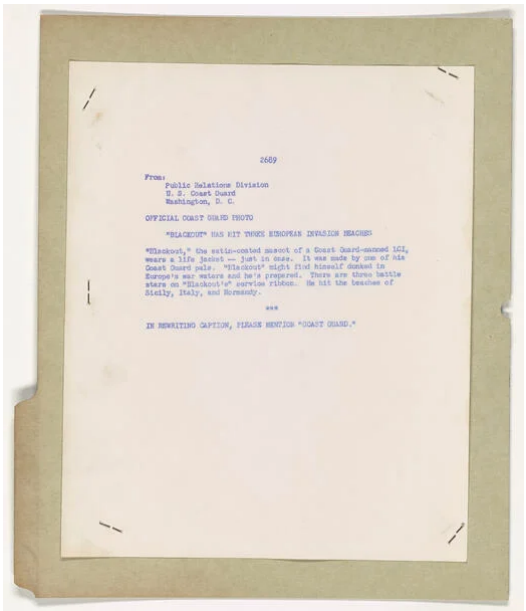
Many thanks to the Still Pictures Branch at the National Archives for their work making these images available in the Catalog. And special thanks to Meghan Guthon and Kelsey Noel. This feature was adapted from their posts on the Unwritten Record blog:

- It's a Dog's Job… – The Unwritten Record
- Bad Boys – The Unwritten Record
- The Further Adventures of Sinbad – The Unwritten Record
- Spotlight: Hero Dogs – The Unwritten Record

Citizen Archivist Volunteer Opportunities

Interested in transcribing these records to make them more searchable and accessible? Transcribe the photo cards describing these seafaring companions, and for extra credit, tag details and features you see in each photograph.
Learn What Makes a Good Tag?
New to the Citizen Archivist program? Learn how to register and get started.





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From:
Public Relations Division
U. S. Coast Guard
Washington, D. C.

OFFICIAL COAST GUARD PHOTO

"BLACKOUT" HAS HIT THREE EUROPEAN INVASION BEACHES

"Blackout," the satin-coated mascot of a Coast Guard-manned LCI, wears a life jacket -- just in case. It was made by one of his Coast Guard pals. "Blackout" might find himself donked in Europe's war waters and he's prepared. There are three battle stars on "Blackout's" service ribbon. He hit the beaches of Sicily, Italy, and Normandy.

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IN REWRITING CAPTION, PLEASE MENTION "COAST GUARD."

"Blackout" Has Hit Three European Invasion Beaches. *National Archives Identifier*

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History Hub

Start your research on History Hub



Have a question? Find your answer on History Hub! See some of the latest questions on History Hub - maybe you can help our other community members with their research!

- **Heroic dog!** "Seeking information on a Coast Guard Dog named 'Nora.' She was a German Shepard who rescued Coast Guardsman Evans E. Mitchell of Chicago, IL, while patrolling an isolated North Carolina beach at night. … I have included the only photo I have found of Nora and Evans Mitchell to date."



- **Prohibition gang shootout! "**I believe my great grandfather and his brother in law were in a gang that operated out of New York and possibly New Jersey during Prohibition. … I know from a 1925 article I found that he got in a chase/shootout with the coast guard on the ship the Margie, and was supposedly shot seven times but survived."

- **Start your research!** "My grandfather was in the Coast Guard Reserves in World War II, and I'm wondering if there's a way to find any records associated with that."

- **Bonus blog posts!** Archivists have compiled information to help you start your research:
    - Get ready for the release of the 1950 Census records with a helpful guide: "1950 Census: Enumeration of U.S. Coast Guard Personnel."

    - See also our guide to Vessel & Station Log Books, which include logbooks of depots, bases, lifesaving stations, and air stations; Coast Guard vessels, merchant vessels, and revenue cutters; lighthouses, light stations, tenders, and light vessels; and Port Security units.

See our space on History Hub for Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard Records, and check out our recent newsletter for more details, information, and instructions about using History Hub for your research.

Citizen Archivists, there's a group just for you! You can share tips and strategies, find new challenges, and get support for your work. Get started with our poll: What kinds of records do you like to transcribe?

Make History Hub your first stop! You can ask—or answer—questions on History Hub, or see if your question has already been answered.

History HUB

COVID-19 Update

The National Archives is committed to the health and safety of our visitors and staff. We are closely monitoring the situation regarding COVID-19, and we are working with public health officials and our counterpart agencies to monitor and respond to the evolving conditions and following CDC guidelines.

For more information, visit https://www.archives.gov/coronavirus

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Questions or comments? Email us at catalog@nara.gov

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