


War Dogs of the Pacific

Directed by Harris Done

 Military documentary

Award-winning cinematographer Harris Done first became interested in the Marine War Dog program while working on Steven Spielberg's World War II documentaries *The Last Days* (1998) and *Price for Peace* (2002). In his 46-minute DVD, *War Dogs of the Pacific*, Done presents the incredible story of a World War II dog-training program that began as a desperate experiment. American military commanders were unprepared for the realities of jungle warfare in the Pacific and needed new methods to detect concealed enemy soldiers.

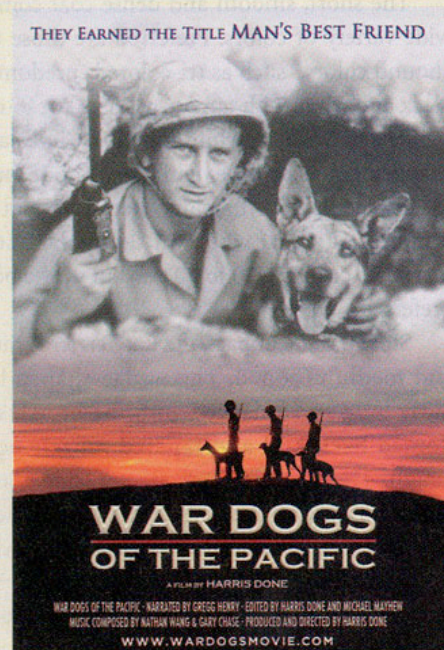
Realizing that much of this story could soon be forgotten, Done tracked down and interviewed several veterans who trained and fought with these dogs. Using a combination of rare film footage and photographs, Done tells how the dogs were acquired mainly through personal donations and a recruitment program organized by the Doberman

Pinscher Club of America (which led to the Doberman becoming the official breed of the Marine Corps). "I never dreamed that they could perform the way they did overseas. They saved hundreds of lives," says former Marine Capt. William Putney, DVM, who was a veterinarian before the war and was later assigned to the war-dog training school at Camp Lejune in North Carolina.

The dogs first proved their value by detecting enemy soldiers in the 1944 invasion of Guam, and were subsequently sent to Saipan, Okinawa and Iwo Jima. By the war's end, every Marine division had a platoon of war dogs.

Done also follows the post-war history of these 549 dogs; some were returned to their families; others were adopted by the soldiers who trained them.

Anyone interested in World War II or dog-training history will find this carefully



crafted, well-paced documentary especially appealing. However, its genuine emphasis on the human-canine bond will strike a chord with every dog lover.

\$19.99; www.wardogsmovie.com