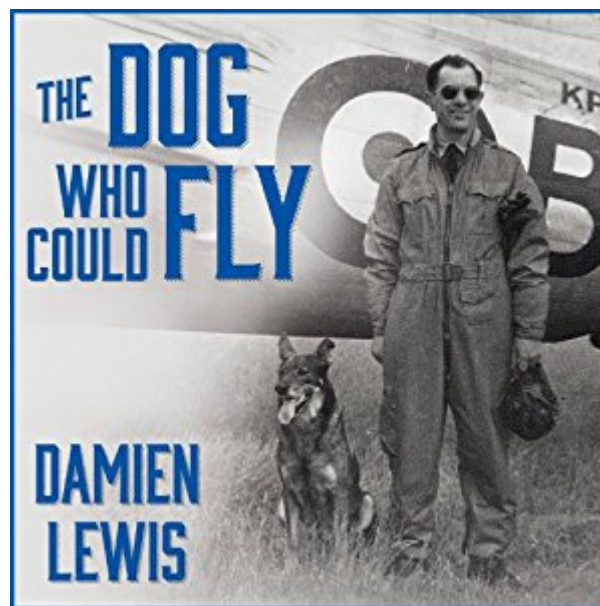


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The Dog Who Could Fly: The Incredible True Story Of A WWII Airman And The Four-Legged Hero Who Flew At His Side



Synopsis

An instant hit in the UK, this is the true account of a German shepherd who was adopted by the Royal Air Force during World War II, joined in flight missions, and survived everything from crash-landings to parachute bailouts - ultimately saving the life of his owner and dearest friend. In the winter of 1939 in the cold snow of no-man's-land, two loners met and began an extraordinary journey that would turn them into lifelong friends. One was an orphaned puppy, abandoned by his owners as they fled Nazi forces. The other was a different kind of lost soul - a Czech airman bound for the Royal Air Force and the country that he would come to call home. Airman Robert Bozdech stumbled across the tiny German shepherd - whom he named Ant - after being shot down on a daring mission over enemy lines. Unable to desert his charge, Robert hid Ant inside his jacket as he escaped. In the months that followed, the pair would save each other's lives countless times as they flew together with Bomber Command. And though Ant was eventually grounded due to injury, he refused to abandon his duty, waiting patiently beside the runway for his master's return from every sortie, and refusing food and sleep until they were reunited. By the end of the war Robert and Ant had become British war heroes, and Ant was justly awarded the Dickin Medal, the "Animal VC".

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

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Customer Reviews

I will admit that I am a sucker for dogs, and for books of dog memoirs. And I like a good story about victory over the Nazis, too. So you can tell just from the subtitle that I would be an enthusiast for The Dog Who Could Fly: The Incredible True Story of a WWII Airman and the Four-Legged Hero

Who Flew at His Side_ (Atria Books) by Damien Lewis. It is both a fine dog story and a war story. Lewis has written about military issues, and military dogs, many times before. He has also collaborated with warriors to tell their stories, and in a way, this is what he has done with his current book. The subject of airman Robert Bozdech and his dog Antis has been in a couple of books before, and Lewis looked them up, only to find that he had plenty of questions about Bozdech's story that the books didn't touch. And so he checked with Bozdech's family; had the airman written his own version of the story? "Oh, you mean Dad's original manuscript?" said his son. "Yes, of course, I'll just fetch a copy." There were also photos, and reel-to-reel tape recordings. From this, Lewis has fashioned the story, reassuring us that he has used Bozdech's own words as much as possible. It was war that brought Bozdech and his dog together in the first place when he rescued the little German shepherd puppy after his plane was shot down in no-man's-land between Germany and France. They made it back to allied lines, and Bozdech and the dog formed the strongest of bonds. He and his Czech pals were flying for France against the Nazis, and Bozdech took Antis up for flights because he was worried that he might have to land on some airfield different from the one he had departed from.

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