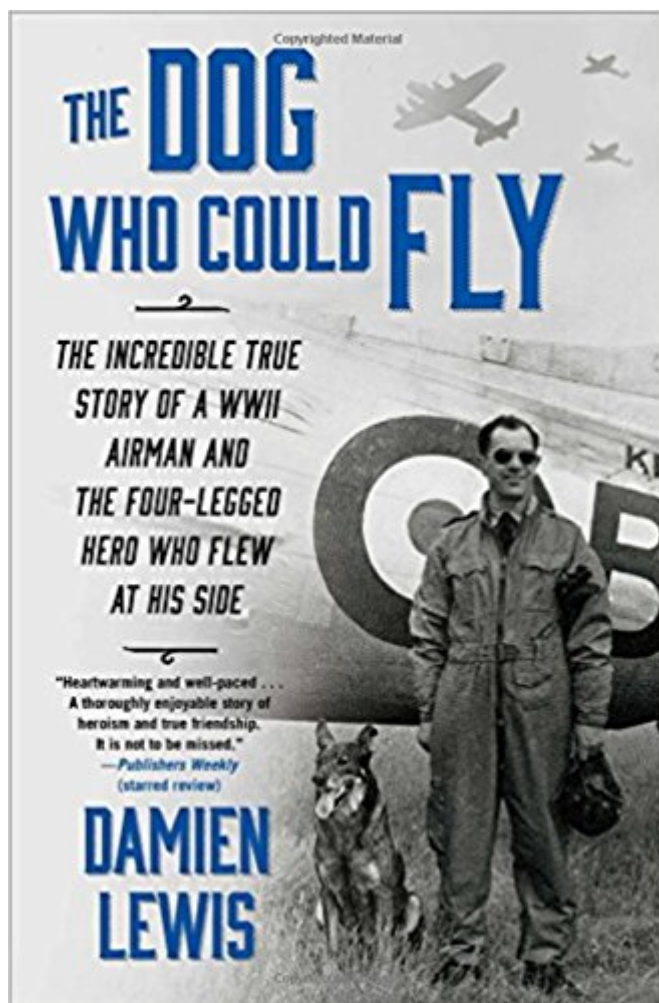


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# The Dog Who Could Fly: The Incredible True Story Of A WWII Airman And The Four-Legged Hero Who Flew At His Side



## Synopsis

“A thoroughly enjoyable story of heroism and true friendship” (Publishers Weekly, starred review), this Sunday Times top ten bestseller is the true account of a German shepherd who was adopted by the Royal Air Force during World War II, flying countless combat missions and surviving 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 the puppy, 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 RAF Bomber Command. Finally grounded after being injured on a flight mission, Ant 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 true war heroes, and Ant was justly awarded the Dickin Medal, the “Animal VC.” With beautiful vintage black-and-white photos of Robert and Ant, *The Dog Who Could Fly* is a deeply moving story of loyalty in the face of adversity and the unshakable bond between a man and his best friend.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

In 1939, after surviving a crash in a French battlefield, Czech airman Robert Bozdech saved the life of his pilot and then, in spite of the dire circumstances, a small German Shepherd puppy the two men found in an abandoned farmhouse. In the years that followed as Bozdech, a man without a country, flew for the French and the RAF, his dog, Ant, was always by his side, a dearly loved mascot. Lewis was able to contact Bozdech's children and gain access to his personal wartime memoirs as well as letters home and other papers related to his military experiences. The result is a gripping war story and an utterly heartfelt narrative about a man and a dog, where the ending, thank goodness, is happy. On more than one occasion, Ant saved Bozdech, and he certainly returned the favor. Through enemy gunfire, circumventing official regulations and dangerous illness, they were loyal and true to each other and the war effort. A stirring drama of WWII that dog lovers will not be able to resist. --Colleen Mondor --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

"Heartwarming and well-paced... Lewis takes readers on a roller-coaster ride with as many ups and downs as a bombing mission... A thoroughly enjoyable story of heroism and true friendship, and for lovers of WWII history and animals it is not to be missed." (Publishers Weekly, Starred Review)"A great war story, packed with excitement and suspense. But it's the love between the two aviators, man and dog, that will linger in your mind." (Spencer Quinn, New York Times bestselling author of Dog On It)"A gripping war story and an utterly heartfelt narrative... A stirring drama of WWII that dog lovers will not be able to resist." (Booklist)"Fasten your seatbelt, this fast-moving World War II docudrama keeps you on edge from cover to cover with an intoxicating blend of tension and passion, from air raids over Europe to blackouts in England and Scotland." (Seattle Kennel Club)"A real gem of modern history, both poignant and beautifully told." (The Sun (London))"Truly epic... Reveals just how deep the bond between man and dog can be... A story of animal bravery which is unlikely to be repeated." (Western Morning News (UK))"A story of love and loyalty guaranteed to capture hearts." (Lancashire Evening Post)"You'll be wiping the tears from your eyes as you read the story of this orphaned puppy... Damien Lewis has written a tearjerker to touch the heart of even the most hardened member of the anti-dog brigade." (Northern Echo (UK))"Uplifting... Their bond [is] testament to the relationship forged between man and dog." (Good Book Guide (UK))

This is a great book. The true story will have you saying, "How come I never heard of this before?" It is fascinating, and I've been telling everyone about it. The book is easy to read, appropriate for all ages and sensibilities. I love dogs, and this makes me puff with pride about how cool dogs really are. It's a good action story, a good dog story, and you'll learn some history about WWII along the way too. Strongly recommended.

This story is all about what makes dogs such wonderful companions --unconditional love and loyalty, no matter what. What is really amazing is that this dog, despite the injuries and trauma he experienced during wartime activities, was always eager to get back in the fray as long as he could be with his master. Although the author had to use a bit of poetic license to indicate what the dog was thinking at times, having owned dogs all my life, I think he was spot on. Uplifting story, highly recommend.

Put a beautiful German Shepherd, a handsome and courageous gunner and World War 11 into the mix and you have a great story. Damien Lewis puts together a page turning tale of courage, loyalty and love between a dog and his master, amidst the gut churning horrors of World War 11. Lewis researched the story admirably using the written manuscripts of Robert Bozdech, together with the invaluable help of Bozdech's children. The book flows in an easy, unsentimental prose, but the content is touching and quite a lovely tribute to Bozdech and his dog Antis. Bozdech was a Czech airman who was a member of the Czech section of RAF Bomber Command who flew 206 sorties over Germany, and unlike many of his compatriots, lived to tell his tale. His faithful companion flew with him in the rear turret of the Wellington Bomber. Wounded and threatened on many occasions Antis remained loyal and brave to the day he died.. To the raw courage of all those who fought for the freedom we cherish today, and to their loyal and brave animal companions, I salute you and my gratitude and admiration knows no bounds. I absolutely recommend this book and may I suggest "Horrie, the War Dog" if this is a subject that touches your heart.

incredibly heart warming and to think that a dog like this truly existed. I understand the telepathic like communication that the two of them had together it is eery and uncommon but it does exist I know for a fact it does.....I learned so much about these extraordinary pilots and their passionate dedication to the war and each other. I would highly recommend this book even if you are not a dog person but you will be after reading this book. Antis is so devoted to Robert no best human friend

would and could not compete with sweet Antis.

Amazing story. They should make a movie out of this. I love stories about real life events. This was written in a way that made it an easy and enjoyable read.

This is an incredible true story and wonderful to read or listen to. My first audio copy is getting worn out due to the number of folks who have borrowed it. Now I have a good copy for myself! It is heartwarming and a great find.

The dog who could fly is like a diamond with brilliant facets of a true love story of people and animals at war against evil. Damien Lewis found the diamond in the rough true story and polished each facet with uncanny voices each speaking from the heart. This book is one incredible adventure after another driven by loyalty, love and responsibility, proving that the human spirit can achieve noble victories against the odds of traditions and logic. Reading this book will surely bring tears to the eyes.

This book was recommended by a friend . I enjoyed it very much.

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