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3rd Place Contest Entry: “Cry ‘Havoc!’ And Let Slip the Dogs of War!”: The Canine Experience in the A.E.F.

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____ Amanda Larsh _____ 4.15.17 _____
Name Date

2. Essay:

Beginning my research in Spring of 2016, my first instinct was to head to the Leatherby Library to discover what resources I could access. Falling back on the familiar programs like JSTOR and other online journal databases, I began to discover that very little had been written about my topic. Because of this lack of content I turned to librarians like Rand Boyd, to see what access Chapman had to online databases that could allow me to shed light onto the topic. At this point I also turned to programs like WorldCat, which allowed me to discover the titles I needed to complete my paper as the majority of the writings on how dogs were used in World War I were not at Chapman’s library or available for purchase. Finding these titles on WorldCat thanks to their rather intuitive search suggestions and an understanding of keyword parameters learned from the librarians at the Help Desk, I was soon able to request the materials I needed through Interlibrary Loan. ILL allowed me to receive a wide variety of materials such as first edition books and original government pamphlets like “Special Regulations No. 70: Regulations Governing the Army Veterinary Service,” ultimately saving me from a trip to the Library of Congress. Upon discovering poems within some of the books accessed through ILL in addition to a scrapbook from the Smithsonian, I returned to the Help Desk to learn how to properly cite poetry in Chicago Style.

The correct use of keywords was paramount to my ability to writing my paper. Although WorldCat’s suggested keywords were extremely helpful, when it came to searching through databases like the Library of Congress, words like “dog” and “canine” were useless. Eventually, through help from professors and discovering the majority of writings referred to these dogs simply as “mascot(s),” this word became the main term I inputted for the majority of my online research. Using the term “mascot” instead of “dogs,” I was able to discover several articles published in *The Stars and Stripes* which discussed how the American military was attempting to deal with a completely new issue at the end of the war – what to do with all the animals the men were smuggling home.

Due to the limited amount of published material on my subject matter I was forced to be creative with my search. Reading through Michael G. Lemish’s book, which I ordered through ILL, I discovered an off-hand remark about a Pasadena resident donating his dogs to the war. After contacting the Pasadena Public Library I found they held a vast microfilm collection of their papers, going back to the late 1800s. After talking with a librarian at the Help Desk on how to use microfilm, I headed to the Pasadena Public Library where I discovered a slew of articles on dogs being used for war work in the city. These articles, published during the war and therefore showcasing the residents of Pasadena’s work during the period I’m discussing, allowed me to present the efforts of a city to not only help their men but the animals of war survive. By using trusted sources I had discovered from an off-hand remark I was able to highlight the city’s efforts, efforts which had never been fully discussed prior to this paper in any sense. Understanding the paper’s authority in the matter and the relevance of these articles to my proving my overall argument, they were an important inclusion in my paper as it not only provided a new look at the war effort, but showed what a city could do when the citizens combined their efforts. Applying this type of critical thinking and evaluation to every book,

article and photo I discovered about Pasadena, I was able to make connections between work done by residents like Freeman A. Ford to articles written by Walter Dyer in the *Red Cross Magazine* to a posting in the back of a separate edition of the *Red Cross Magazine*.

The resources available to me and the research skills I've acquired played a direct role in my paper winning Second Place at the Southern California Regional Phi Alpha Theta Conference. Additionally, these acquired skills have directly impacted my professional documentary career as I continually apply what I've learned when conducting research for the historical documentaries I work on with Time Frame Films for networks like PBS.

3. Summary and Bibliography:

SUMMARY:

Though Sgt. Stubby may have been left out of the books written about the Yankee Division, his memory lives on in the stories told by those who met him.¹ Of all the honors bestowed upon Stubby over the years, none may be more personal or touching than how his fellow soldiers remembered him. While some drew portraits or snapped photos of Stubby others took to poetry to express how much he meant to them. After Stubby woke up Sergeant John J. Curtin after he had slept through a topside alarm warning of an incoming gas attack, Curtin wrote a poem thanking the dog.

Listen to me and I will tell,
Of a dog who went all through hell,
With the 102nd Infantry, U.S.A.,
Stubby was with us night and day.

.....

North of Verdun were our hardest battles,
And many brave men gave death rattles,
But Stubby came back through hell O.K.
And is ready to go back to the U.S.A.

He is a fighting bulldog of the old Y.D.,
And is the joy and pride of our company.
When we take him back to the U.S.A.,
Stubby will hold the stage night and day.

His owner Bob will take him home,

¹ Shay, Michael E. *The Yankee Division in the First World War: In the Highest Tradition*. College Station: Texas A&M University Press, 2008, 210-212.

Amanda Larsh
Kevin and Tam Ross Undergraduate Research Application

And never more will Stubby roam,
He'll enjoy a much earned rest
In the place WE ALL LOVE BEST.
(Sergeant John J. Curtin, "Our Regimental Mascot")²

What made this dog so special was perfectly summed up by one war reporter, who wrote that Stubby "was not a 'one man' dog, but everyone's friend".³ It was this admiration and love that allowed Stubby to receive a 3-column obituary in the *New York Times*. In a tribute fitting of a war hero they remembered Stubby's greatest achievement in the regiment, noting how "he seemed to know that the greatest service he could render was comfort and cheerfulness."⁴ Even before Stubby's death he warmed the hearts of a nation, attracting attention from media outlets and even the likes of Margaret Shanks, war nurse, poet and end-of-life caregiver for Susan B. Anthony, who wrote:

Stubby---on the field of battle
You have won immortal fame
Written on the page of history
Will be found your home-spun name.
.....
Stubby---doggie what a lesson
To us humans, you can teach
Humbly wearing regal honors
Lifts you just beyond our reach.
(Margaret Shanks)⁵

² Bausum, *Sergeant Stubby*, 66; Smithsonian Institution Archives, Accession No. 210736, Catalog No. 58285, Division of Armed Forces History, "Pvt. James Robert Conroy's Scrapbook".

³ Bausum, *Sergeant Stubby*, 67.

⁴ "Stubby of A.E.F. Enters Valhalla: Tramp Dog of No Petigree Took Part In the Big Parade in France," *New York Times* (New York City, New York), April 4, 1926.

⁵ Smithsonian Institution Archives, Accession No. 210736, Catalog No. 58285, Division of Armed Forces History, "Pvt. James Robert Conroy's Scrapbook".

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Amanda Larsh
Kevin and Tam Ross Undergraduate Research Application

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Amanda Larsh
Kevin and Tam Ross Undergraduate Research Application

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