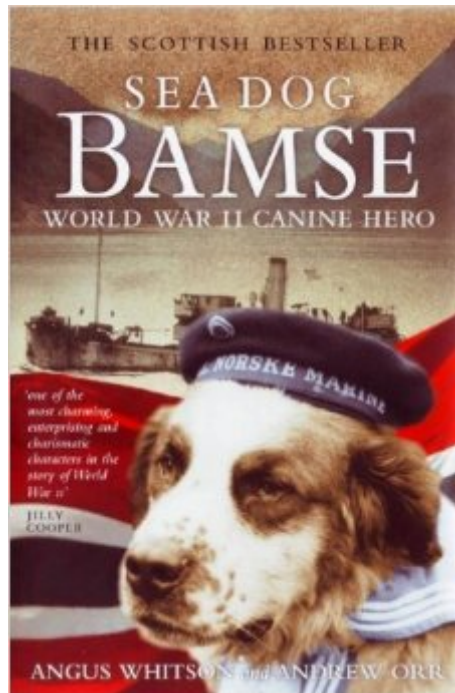


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# Sea Dog Bamse: World War II Canine Hero



## Synopsis

This is the remarkable story of one of WWII's most unusual animal heroes—a 196 pound St Bernard dog who became the global mascot for the Royal Norwegian Forces and a symbol of freedom and inspiration for Allied troops throughout Europe. Many ships had pets on board, but Bamse the St. Bernard who 'lived' on Thorodd, and belonged to her commander, Erling Hafto, was the largest dog in the allied naval forces. After Norway fell to the Germans in 1940, the Thorodd operated from Dundee and Montrose, where Bamse became a well-known and much-loved figure, shepherding the Thorodd's crew-members back to the boat at pub closing time, traveling on the local buses, breaking up fights and even taking part in football matches. Often donning his own steel helmet as he took his place in the Thorodd's bow gun turret, Bamse made a huge contribution to the morale of the crew, and saved the lives of two of them. Mourned both by locals and Norwegians when he died in 1944, Bamse's memory has been kept alive both in Norway, where he is still regarded as a national hero, and in Montrose, where a larger-than-life statue of him was unveiled in 2006 by HRH Prince Andrew. Written from extensive source material and eyewitness accounts, Sea Dog Bamse is a fitting tribute to the extraordinary life of an extraordinary dog.

## Book Information

Paperback: 224 pages

Publisher: Birlinn (July 19, 2010)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1841588490

ISBN-13: 978-1841588490

Product Dimensions: 0.8 x 5 x 8 inches

Shipping Weight: 7.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (13 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #160,818 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #12 in [Books > History > Europe > Scandinavia > Norway](#) #54 in [Books > History > Europe > Great Britain > Scotland](#) #98 in [Books > Engineering & Transportation > Transportation > History > Ships](#)

## Customer Reviews

Like one of your other reviewers, I bought the book mainly because i love Dogs. I have never owned a Sint Bernard, and, after reading this book, I think it is my loss never to have owned one. BAMSE began life in Norway just as Germany was Occupying Norway, and Bamse's owner, a Trawler owner, set off to Scotland with Bamse, to do his bit for his Country. As much as the Sailor did for

Britain, Bamse did more for the Community's Morale. He saved two people from death, he became everyone's dog. He even had his own Bus Pass, so he could travel when he wanted. BAMSE died of old age, and his Funeral was attended by hundreds. Just a few years ago, Britain's Prince Andrew unveiled a Life size Statue, to commemorate his Bravery. His grave is maintained by local people, it can be visited, and if anyone wants to leave a Seashell on his Grave they are welcome to do so. If you like dogs, this book is a must for you. Buy it, you will never regret it. Jon Muir--Australia

I always look for destination relevant books when I travel. I wish that I had this book with me on my trip to Norway last summer because I visited many of the places where faithful Bamse served his heroic duties. Fast read and suitable for most readers.

I am a dog lover and, in view of a cruise to Norway on board the Coastal Express, I started some research on the internet. This is how I discovered the extraordinary story of Bamse. I then bought the book. It is the most touching story that I have read in years. The courage, loyalty and intelligence of Bamse are outstanding. There is a statue of Bamse in Honningsvag and I hope to see it while cruising to Nordkapp to pay tribute to this beautiful dog in all senses of the word..

Not knowing what to expect, but being a dog lover, I ordered this book. It is a great story about a puppy that went off to war with his master. They served in the Norwegian Navy during World War II while their country, Norway, was occupied by the Germans. Nice photos help bring the dog to life. The detailed story of the crew, the ship, and the men who loved their big mascot is an enjoyable read.

Well written, historically informative and telling the important and beautiful story of the Sea Dog Bamse, who so much deserves the posthumously admiration and recognition as the War Hero, Norwegian Marine Mascot and supportive friend his was to his fellow shipmates during the WWII.

Bamse is a book for all ages and of some importance too, since so many accounts of WWII are lost and not passed down to future generations. It reads smoothly and is full of little nuggets of information, some of which were new to me. Although sea dog Bamse is the main character within the book, it's fascinating to read about the developing relationship between the people of Norway and Scotland, both during and after the war. The compact size of the book makes it a neat travel companion and the photos, particularly the before and after of the razing of Honningsvag, were a

plus.

I bought this book because I have had Saint Bernards in my home for most of the 40 years I have been married. They are extraordinary dogs and Bamse proves that they always have been special. There is a lot of World War II technical descriptions in this book, but they don't interfere with the actual story of Bamse and his legacy. I really enjoyed reading this book and would recommend it to anyone who wants to know about the qualities a Saint Bernard can introduce to their acquaintances and friends.

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