

his wake. He even appeared to have a sense of humor. Tilikum seemed to be the ultimate model of animal, and particularly of dolphin, intelligence.

On February 24, 2010, Tilikum was performing a routine show with 40-year-old female trainer Dawn Brancheau. And

then something went tragically wrong. The trainer was unexpectedly dragged into the water during one of the acts in front of dozens of spectators. Other trainers and park employees tried in vain to distract the massive mammal using nets and food. Dawn Brancheau was pinned underwater by

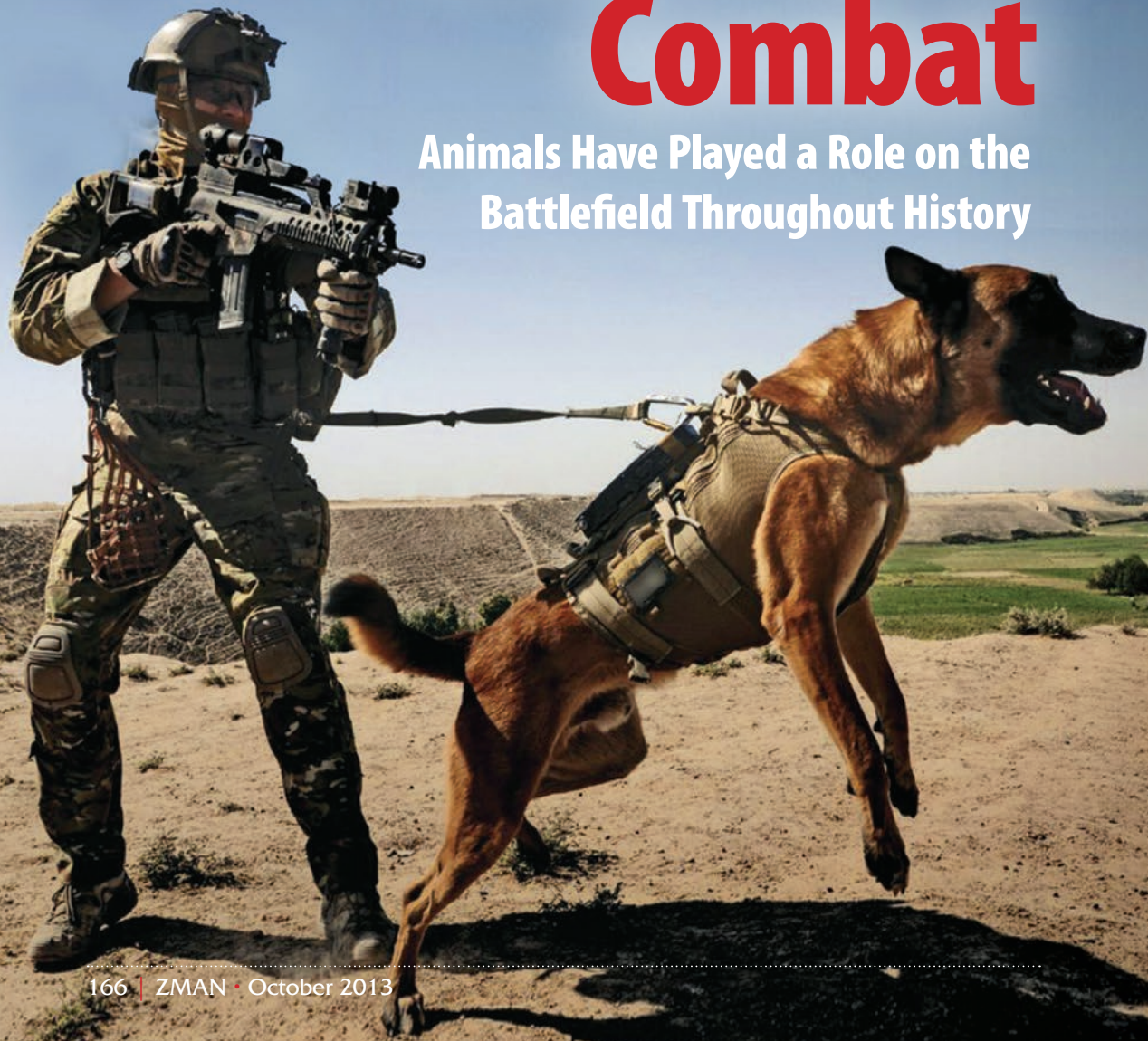
the colossal weight and strength of the giant orca. She was drowned.

Other trainers eventually succeeded in moving Tilikum from one pool to another until they reached a smaller medical pool where they hoped to calm him. He subsequently released Brancheau's body. SeaWorld

said the trainer was pulled into the water by her ponytail and that it may have got caught in Tilikum's teeth, it may have also been confused for a toy, or confused for a fish, because she was holding a fish and may have touched her hair afterwards, leaving the scent. ■

Animals In Combat

Animals Have Played a Role on the Battlefield Throughout History



Chaim Rivkin

Ever since humans began settling their conflicts through war, four-footed soldiers have played a crucial role on the battlefield. Although in time horses have been replaced with Humvees and elephants with tanks, animals—and even sea creatures—are used to this day by armies around the world. Some have even displayed outstanding loyalty and heroism in battle. Take a closer look at how animals have served armies in the past and how they are being used by the most sophisticated armies today.

The weather was unusually pleasant for a London afternoon. But the 50 or so people who were gathered in Hyde Park last November were too distraught to appreciate it. They stood there with faces downcast, their hearts full of sadness.

These people had gathered from far and

wide to pay their final respects to a special group of war heroes. They had sacrificed their lives on behalf of land and country. The assemblage had come to participate in the unveiling of a new memorial in tribute to the fallen heroes.

What made this ceremony unusual was

that the heroes were not soldiers in the usual sense. They were animals that had assisted on the battlefield in the fight against the enemy. These loyal animal soldiers had fallen in the line of duty.

The memorial was sponsored by an organization known as PSDA, which awards medals and citations to animals that showed exemplary heroism while participating in military operations. Among the animals that were being honored by the PSDA's memorial were horses, donkeys, dogs, elephants, camels, pigeons, cats and even glowworms.

The inscription on the monument reads: "This memorial is dedicated to all the animals that served and died alongside British and Allied forces in wars and campaigns throughout time. They had no choice."

While some of those at the ceremony wiped tears from their eyes, some were burning with fury. "They died for nothing!" several demonstrators shouted. These activists refused to leave the site until PSDA officials promised them a separate memorial for all animals that suffered at the hands of humans.

Let us take a stroll through a virtual "zoo," bringing together amazing stories of different animal war heroes, their exceptional abilities and how they have played a role in military conflicts over the centuries—sometimes deciding the outcome of major battles that changed the course of history.

Horses

"History was written on the back of a horse," an old maxim goes. Horses have led the development of civilization by supplying the human race with a reliable mode of transportation. More than any other animal, horses have affected the course of history. They carried explorers to discover new lands and soldiers to conquer new territories.

For thousands of years and over many continents, horses have played a primary role in warfare. When the Hyksos invaded ancient Egypt on horseback, they introduced an innovation that would carry numerous



The monument to animals that fell in battle.

armies to victory. Horses carried Alexander the Great on his wars of conquests and Napoleon as he overran Europe. Less than 100 years ago, horses were still facing bullets at the front.

So important did they become that in *Tanach* horses serve as the paradigm of battle prowess: David Hamelech reminds us in *Tehillim* that "The horse does not guarantee victory" (33:17). Rather, we must turn to *Hashem*.

Horses are timid by nature. When they sense a threat or are startled by a loud noise, they instinctively flee. But when forced by humans to confront danger, they become formidable opponents. Men have trained horses to carry riders or wagons of provisions into battle. They have also been trained to respond to sudden changes on the part of their rider or an attacking enemy. Finally, as the Talmud records (*Avodah Zara* 16a), horses have been transformed into a weapon in their own right by being trained to kick or trample opponents.

The history of horses in battle certainly did not end with the drowning of Pharaoh and his chariots in the sea. Anyone who has read about the Middle Ages will be able to conjure up the imposing image of draft horses lumbering into battle with armor-clad knights on their backs. Cavalry played a

major role in virtually all battles ever fought in Europe.

Once horses were introduced by Spaniards to Native Americans in the 1500s, they were almost inseparable from each other, taking part in fierce, fast-paced battles together. The American Civil War is often considered the last significant war in which cavalry played a major role. But horses were not freed from duty yet. Not by a long shot.

During World War I, horses proved pivotal in transporting soldiers and equipment. Their ability to endure over rough terrain and muddy roads far better than the early autos made them irreplaceable. Horses were also used for espionage and to carry couriers with vital messages. When it was necessary to drag artillery or field ambulances, it was the indomitable equestrians who were called upon.

The demand for horses by the military became insatiable. At the outbreak of the war the British army had 25,000 horses at its disposal. Over the next few years the US supplied England with close to one million additional horses. Of those million, 60,000 died and only 200 were ever returned. The American Expeditionary Force that fought in France in World War I brought along 180,000 horses.

The horses paid dearly for the honor of fighting for their homeland. Many were pounded by bullets or shells, others contracted diseases from the unsanitary conditions while yet others were exposed to the deadly



Native Americans made extensive use of horses in battle once they were introduced to North America by Europeans.



French cavalry unit leading German captives near the end of World War I.



The Polish Army still made heavy use of cavalry at the onset of World War II.



Polish cavalry on the move during the invasion of Poland in September 1939.