Top Dog: The Story of Marine Hero Lucca

by Maria Goodavage

A book review by Nancy Kvorka

Those of us that have lived with and loved German Shepherd Dogs know how special they are. Military K9 dogs take this to the next level. This is the story of one special Marine hero – Lucca.

Lucca was a German Shepherd-Belgian Malinois mix trained to search for and detect explosives off-leash. This included long distances from her handlers; a special skill as not all dogs can be trained for this type of work. She had an exemplary four hundred mission career which included both wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

This book is a view of war through the eyes of a working K9 and two of her handlers. It includes Lucca's post-career care and treatment after she lost her left front leg in the line of duty.

Many things can be learned from reading this book: the human cost and sacrifices of war, the cost in dollars and the benefit of keeping alliances. The most important things I learned are the resilience of dogs and their handlers. Well-trained dogs are important in any military effort.

You can read more about Lucca on her Wikipedia Page.