

A full-page photograph of a smiling Italian Carabinieri sergeant in formal uniform, kneeling on a cobblestone street next to a German Shepherd dog. The sergeant is wearing a white peaked cap with a gold emblem, a dark blue jacket with red piping and gold buttons, and white trousers. He has sergeant's chevrons on his sleeve and a medal on his chest. The German Shepherd is sitting, looking towards the camera with its mouth open, and wearing a green, white, and red ribbon with a gold medal. A large, faint watermark of the Carabinieri emblem is visible in the background.

It is believed she protected the lives of thousands of allied troops during her career, with there being no human

casualties during any of her patrols.

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Lucca, pictured recovering from her injuries after losing her leg with her then handler Corporal Juan Rodriguez.

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It only took Lucca 10 days to recover from the blast and now lives with her former trainer Sergeant Willingham in California.

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Before serving in Afghanistan, Lucca completed two tours of duty in Iraq with Sergeant Willingham.

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She made a number of finds including IEDs and bombs and was also directly responsible for apprehending four insurgents.

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Lucca is the 67th animal to be honoured with the Dickin medal, which is awarded to those who show exceptional service in military conflict.

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