In the winter of 1815, Lieutenant Beekman Verplank Hoffman brought USS Constitution a valuable new crewmember: a work dog named “Guerriere.” Guerriere quickly became part of the Constitution family and proved just how helpful he could be. The strong terrier would help the sailors during their line drills and occasionally keep watch on the spar deck.

One day, Guerriere appeared unusually frisky, nipping at the sailors’ heels and jumping onto the stowed hammocks. Guerriere stretched his neck and started to bark in a particular direction. The sailors strained to see what had attracted Guerriere’s attention and behold! There was a Portuguese ship off on the horizon that the watchmen had not yet discovered. Guerriere was rewarded with extra food rations and was praised as a hero on board ship. Had it not been for the brave terrier, Constitution and her crew could have been in grave danger.

Color and cut out “Flat Guerriere” and his accessories. Bring him around your hometown, on family vacations, to school, or send him to friends and family and photograph his many adventures! Use the “Dog Log” to keep track of the terrier’s travels and email the Museum your favorite Guerriere photo - we will post it on our Guerriere Bulletin Board inside the Museum! (All photos should be sent to library@ussconstitutionmuseum.org)

How in the world do you say “Guerriere?!"

HMS Guerriere was originally a French ship (the British captured her in 1806), therefore she has a French name. Guerriere the dog was named after the ship because it was during the battle against HMS Guerriere that USS Constitution earned her nickname, “Old Ironsides.” The best way to pronounce her name is to say “Gary” and “air.” Gary + Air = Guerriere. Who knew that French could be so easy?!