CORPORAL WOJTEK

Corporal Wojtek (pronounced Voytek) was one of many soldiers serving in the Polish army during World War II. Unlike the majority of the Polish army, Corporal Wojtek was not human. He was a bear.

Wojtek was born in Iran in 1942. He was adopted by Polish soldiers and refugees after hunters had shot his mother and he had been found by a young Iranian boy. Wojtek came to be much loved by the soldiers, but he could cause trouble as well. He was very intelligent and figured out how to sneak into the showers to cool himself off and get a drink. Since he Poles were in the desert, this sometimes caused water shortages. If Wojtek could use up 1/3 of a 55-gallon drum of water before getting caught, how much water would he have used? Express your answer as a mixed fraction.

When it was time for the soldiers to be transported to Italy, the British ship would not accept mascots or pets. The Polish solved the problem by drafting Wojtek into the Polish Army! He was given a service number, the rank of Private and an official pay book. Although he was only paid in food, he did receive double rations… he was a bear after all! Assuming that Wojtek served 18 months as a soldier, and that he at about $36 per month of food, how much was Wojtek "paid" for his service?

It was at the battle of Monte Cassino that Wojtek became famous. At first, Wojtek was very frightened by the gunfire and explosions around him. He could see that his soldier friends were busy running around carrying ammunition for the artillery. Wojtek courageously started imitating the men, carrying 1, 2 and even 3 crates of ammunition at the time. A crate of mortar ammunition weighs about 50 pounds. If Wojtek carried 35 crates during the battle, how many pounds of ammo did he supply to his friends?

Wojtek spent his years after the war in the Edinburgh Zoo. He was often visited by former soldiers and was loved by the community. He died in 1963, but is remembered by numerous statues and memorials. How old was Wojtek when he died?