

DOGS AND CATS IN WAR

Veterans of the late war testify that cats apparently don't mind the terrific noise, the confusion and the danger—if they recognize any danger—of the fiercest battles. Even prolonged heavy artillery or machine-gun fire worries them not at all so long as they have dry, comfortable quarters and enough to eat.

On the other hand, dogs are usually greatly upset. When shells burst near them they show great distress and give voice to piteous howls. Occasionally, however, an individual is found that seems to enjoy the noise and the excitement, dashing along the front of the trench and barking gleefully even when exposed to the enemy's fire.

Dog and cat mascots found the war for the most part one big lark for they were pampered and petted by the men, fed the best food that was available and given the most comfortable corners of the trenches and quarters occupied by the soldiers. One of these mascots, a terrier, provided great fun for the men of one regiment. They are especially fond of telling how he would perch himself high on a transport wagon at the rear of the battalion and bark saucily at all other dogs he saw as the transport train moved along.

It was not unusual for lost dogs and cats to find their way into allied camps during the height of engagements. It appears that in most cases they had belonged to people living in nearby houses which were wiped off the map by shellfire. There were a few, however, that evidently had traveled long distances.

On one occasion a black cat walked sedately into the midst of a British battalion while a hot fight was on. Its attitude and actions said almost as plainly as words: "I like you fellows and I think I'll stay right here with you." The men treated it kindly and it did stay—surviving a bombardment that cost the lives of many of the human members of the unit. The men saw that it was fed the choicest bits of food, petted it and tied an identification disk about its neck. It stuck to them like a brother, being content and at home wherever they went.

FIND TREASURES OF SPANISH GALLEON

Students of history will recall how Philip II of Spain in the year 1588 equipped and sent out under the command of Medina Sidonia the famed Spanish armada, one of the largest fleets that up to that time had ever put to sea. His threefold object was to punish Elizabeth of England for having aided his rebellious subjects in Holland, to avenge the death of Mary Stuart and to overthrow the reformation in England.

When this formidable armada appeared off the British coast in July, 1588, the English fleet, commanded by Admiral Howard, with Drake, Hawkins

and Frobisher serving as lieutenants under him, did not venture a direct attack because it was much smaller and was made up of much lighter vessels. Being speedy, however, the British ships sorely harassed the Spaniards, fighting them like a jaybird fights a crow.

Numerous British fire-ships were sent out and by this means many of the Spanish galleons were destroyed. At length when it appeared that the time for real aggressive action had arrived the British set to in earnest and the armada turned tail and fled northward in hope of getting away by passing around to the north of the British Isles.

Severe storms were encountered off the Scottish and Irish coasts and British ships kept pounding away at them at every turn. As a result only about one-third of the ships and half of the men of the proud Spanish fleet ever got back to Spain, the other two-thirds of the ships being sent to the bottom and the other half of the men being either lost or captured.

Among the Spanish ships was the great galleon *Florenzia*. When the *Florenzia*, in the armada's flight northward, got to a point near Tobermory, off the coast of Scotland, a well-directed shot from a British ship fired her powder magazine and she was blown into smithereens; her timbers, her crew and her cargo being scattered over a wide area of the sea.

According to popular report the *Florenzia* carried gold, jewels and silver plate worth in the aggregate several kings' ransoms. Many have dreamed of salvaging these valuables and various attempts have been made in that direction. Several years ago a salvage company was formed and this company has been working intermittently ever since. Swords, bronze cannon blunderbusses, scabbards and a few Spanish doubloons have been recovered. Of late reports have told of finds that indicate that the searchers are coming near the ancient treasure-chest and are about to reap the fruits of the money and labor they have expended.

The adventurous treasure-hunters are now working harder than ever, inspired by the hope of being rewarded by both the long-lost gold, silver and jewels and the vindication of their belief in one of the most romantic of treasure-trove tales.

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