

Role of Dogs o' War Important in Action

Case History of Experiments At Fort MacArthur Is Given

The significant function of "Dogs of War," or the K9 Corps, in Army, was recently explained in a Sentry article by Maj. R. E. Riordan, M. I. O.

Twenty-four dogs, it was then revealed, have been ordered for use at Camp Adair. From Col. W. W. Hicks, Commanding Officer, Harbor Defenses of Los Angeles, at Fort MacArthur, which first experimented with the "K9 corps" and to complete success, comes the following article:

The K-9 Command of Fort MacArthur was first organized for the purpose of conserving man power and strengthening the guard by replacing men with dogs. The use of sentry dogs at this post was started in December, 1940, by Colonel Allen Kimberly, C.A.C., the Commanding Officer at that time, and has proved very successful. The command became a functioning unit September 9, 1941, when, by order of Colonel W. W. Hicks, Commanding Officer of Fort MacArthur, Lt. Colonel Glenn Miller was charged with the duty of administering the command. Sergeant R. H. Pearce, an expert in the care and handling of dogs, was assigned the position of trainer.

The original command as organized in December, 1940, consisted of six dogs which were trained to attack and were used as sentries at various artillery positions. From the time Lt. Colonel Miller took charge of the command and organized it as an active unit, the number of dogs was increased from six to a strength of thirty in January, 1942. At that time, the K-9 Command was placed under control of the Commanding Officer of Regimental Headquarters Battery and the strength has been gradually increased to the present strength of ninety-six dogs.

All of the dogs of the command are obtained entirely through civilian donations and become the property of the government. The public has been very cooperative and has responded with many more offers than can be accepted. The dogs are trained entirely by enlisted personnel of Regimental Headquarters Battery under the able direction of Sergeant Pearce. All dogs selected must be male, weigh at least 70 pounds and must be in good healthy condition. Their age must be from 18 months to about five years. They must be capable of carrying loads up to 60 pounds and of pulling loads of up to 200 pounds. All dogs are thoroughly inspected by Sergeant Pearce before being accepted for army duty.

The dogs, all of the larger breeds with preference being expressed for German Shepherds, are divided into two general classes for training. One class is trained for duty with the sentries and the other class for patrol without sentries within inclosures. Dogs especially receptive to training are instructed for both duties.

It has been found that the dogs which work with the sentries require considerably more training and must be more intelligent. The purpose of the sentry dog is two-

fold. First, use is made of the canine sense of hearing and smell to detect the presence of unauthorized persons before the soldier becomes aware of them, thus preventing surprise. A dog will give warning of the approach of anyone up to a distance of 200 yards. Second, the dog is trained to act as an additional weapon and will attack and hold intruders upon command. They can attack under conditions of darkness which would normally prevent the sentry from opening fire.

Tighten Patrol

The dogs placed on patrol duty within the inclosures are trained to attack any unauthorized person entering the area and to give the alarm by barking. There are approximately three miles of double fence 10 feet apart around the reservation and this is divided into sections approximately 200 yards in length. Each dog on fence duty has an individual section to patrol and the size of each section is such that the dog can patrol it easily. Each of the dogs works alone in his section during the time that he is on duty. It has been found that dogs provide a tighter patrol and relieve the use of large numbers of soldiers distributed over the same area.

Training may be divided into eleven distinct types, conducted under the immediate supervision of Sergeant Pearce. Specific types are as follows:

1. Obedience
2. Attack
3. Sentry Duty
4. Utility Duty
5. Sled Dog Duty
6. Messenger Duty
7. Stationary or Fence Patrol
8. Searching
9. Trailing
10. Guarding
11. Obstacle Training
 - a. Jumping
 - b. Climbing
 - c. Sealing
 - d. Negotiating barbed wire entanglements

However, generally all training falls into two phases. First, the dogs are instructed in obedience—taught to heel, sit, stay, etc., and secondly, the dogs are given strenuous training in taking jumps, hurdles, climbing ladders and scaling walls and barbed wire entanglements. This instruction teaches the dogs self-reliance and how to meet and overcome obstacles of whatever nature, as well as serving to improve the general condition of the animal. The time required for the first training phase is from several days to two weeks, depending on the adaptability of the individual dog.

The second phase requires approximately two weeks time during which the dog is taught when and how to attack and how to protect himself. This is accomplished first by the use of dummies and later with the trainers dressed in specially designed padded suits. During this period the important procedure of changing guard is taught the dog. A single animal will work the entire night, thereby necessitating his use by three or more sentries. Therefore it is necessary to teach the dog to work with any man holding the leash rather than with any particular individual. Most of this latter training is conducted at night under the same conditions which the dog will face when on guard. It has been found that any sentry can handle the dog

Millet's Hoe-Man in Portland



Among the fine paintings now at the Portland Art Museum, celebrating a 50th anniversary, is "The Man With the Hoe," by the French painter, Millet, who glorified soil and peasant in such works as this one and in "The Angelus," reproduced in school books for generations.

BASIC TRAINING INSTRUCTIONS FOR SENTRY DOGS

The dogs should be kennelled in an isolated area, if possible, and handled by not more than two men. All training must be done with the dogs on leash and they should never be allowed to run free.

Obedience training, given for one week, consists of teaching the animal to walk on the sentry's left side and at a position near his heel. This is done by holding or jerking the dog back to this position if he attempts to pull or lag. Each time the dog is forced into the correct position the command "Back" is given.

Sitting is taught by pressing on the animal's hindquarters and commanding "Down." The dog should not be allowed to rise until given the command "Go."

Guard training is given at night. The trainer leads the dog and has someone whom the animal does not know walk up and slap the dog with a sack or light stick. This is continued until the dog barks or growls at anyone who approaches the trainer or sentry with whom he is walking.

Training lessons should not last more than an hour and best results are obtained by having two training periods daily for each dog. After the training period, the animals may be worked as much as fourteen hours daily without injury to their health.

efficiently with fifteen minutes instruction.

In training the dog, a few set rules will apply to all training. Dogs while under training must never be allowed to run free or with another animal, but must be kept on a long training leash or light rope at all times. All commands should be short and simple such as, down, back, go, stay, etc. Best results are obtained by constant repetition. Severe punishment or rewards of food or petting should never be given to the dogs. All schooling should be given under the conditions that the dog will be expected to encounter in his work, such as gun and shell fire, smoke, flame, barbed wire entanglements and other obstacles. Training for the dogs must be continuous and each dog, even after thorough training, must have at least two or three days refresher training each month.

Dogs have been trained for many various uses at Fort MacArthur. Three dogs have been trained and work very well as messenger dogs and are capable of operating up to 20 miles distance. Two dogs have been given training as sled dogs and easily pull loads up to 200 pounds.

One dog has been trained to search for dead and wounded persons. He will search upon verbal command and will continue searching until he finds the dead or wounded person and will remain with his find and bark until aid is received.

One dog has been trained to operate without a leash with the sentry. This dog will work very quietly along with the sentry and will attack at a hand signal without verbal command. It must be emphasized that dogs for this work must be carefully selected.

The above special training has been done experimentally on a small scale only to show what use the dogs may be put to in times of war. Another suggested use for dogs might be with automobile patrols. If an automobile patrol squad sights someone suspicious around fortifications or defense plants, the sentry dog could be sent after the person in the event that he should escape to shelter before he could be captured by the squad.

The care of the dogs is another highly important matter. The dogs are quartered in separate kennels, four feet square. Kennels are raised four inches from the ground and ventilation is provided by a heavily screened door. A three foot chain and halter snap are attached to one side of the kennel to which the animals are tethered at the time the kennels are given their daily scrubbing with GI soap and hot water. The cleaning is done in the morning at which time the dogs are groomed.

The amount of food given to the dogs varies with the size and weight of the dog and in accordance with the type of work that he performs. The average amount of food fed a working dog of 60 or 80

feeding and working must be an undisturbed rest period. Water should be available for the dogs at all times.

Grooming the dogs must be a daily task. All grooming is done with a stiff scrubbing brush. The hair is brushed vigorously in one direction for at least five minutes daily on each dog. Combs should not be used as they tend to interfere with the protective undercoat. In warm weather, a bath may be given not more often than once a month. GI soap may be used and should be rinsed well with vinegar. During cold weather dogs should not be bathed unless absolutely necessary.

Each dog's equipment consists of 3-foot leather leash with halter snap and a choke collar with identification tag. Feeding and watering pans are provided and must be thoroughly washed daily.

Medical care should be provided for the dogs. All dogs, whether working or not, should be vaccinated against rabies at least once each year and a record kept of the vaccination. Eyes, ears, feet and toenails should be inspected daily on each animal. If proper care is given the dogs at all times, no trouble should be encountered unless a dog is accidentally injured.

At the present time, 96 dogs are stationed at Fort MacArthur, 91 of them are working and 5 dogs held in reserve for any emergency. The reserve dogs are changed regularly with those dogs on duty so that all will be kept in rigid training.

The dogs are on duty daily on the Fort MacArthur reservation and on sentry and watch duty at outposts from Santa Monica to Laguna Beach. Of the 91 dogs on duty daily, 32 are on fence duty in the double fenced inclosures around the reservation, 30 are on sentry duty at stations in the immediate vicinity of the post, 10 are on duty at searchlight positions and 10 are on duty at batteries and observing stations north of Fort MacArthur. The latter 10 dogs are not quartered at Fort MacArthur but are quartered at separate kennels established at Playa del Rey with one of the enlisted trainers in charge. The remaining nine dogs are on utility duties, etc.

The dogs have done an excellent

job. They are a valuable asset to the army and their use at Fort MacArthur has probably replaced an entire battery for guard duty. They have instilled confidence in the sentries patrolling alone at isolated points. It is our considered opinion and is recommended that their use be fully extended to the various activities mentioned.

M.P., Guard, Stockade; All Under Capt. Hale

By order of Col. Gordon McCoy, Capt. Julius Hale has been made Battalion Commander of the Military Police, the Post Guard, and the Post Prison Stockade, SCU 1911.

The order stated that in addition to his new duties, Capt. Hale would continue as Post Provost Marshal. He came to Camp Adair June 22.

First Lt. Walter R. Padrick, infantry, was appointed Commanding officer of the Detached Corps of Military Police to succeed Capt. Hale.

The same order contained the appointment of First Lt. Hugh H. Tonsfeldt to be CG of the Post Guard, and Post Prison Officer. He will be assisted by Second Lt. John P. Loffredo, just assigned to

Camp Adair from an MP training school. Second Lt. George Kressaty, who arrived with Lt. Loffredo, will train Military Police.

S. Sgt. John C. Turner, Service Btry, 387 P.A., has been hunting a Salem home for a wife and son who arrived from Cambridge, Ohio, Dec. 3.

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