

Is That So?

By EUGENE BURNS
Ranger-Naturalist

Animals who have fought beside their masters, often saving large numbers and turning the tide of battle, have occasionally received a "well done."

Moustache, a dog, was decorated by Napoleon's Field Marshal Lannes, Duke of Montebello, in 1800 when Napoleon's troops were camped near the Valley of the Balbo, in Italy, an Austrian regiment crept stealthily through the darkness to take the French unawares and would have succeeded but for Moustache who had smelled them out and raised such a fracas that the Frenchmen were all on their feet and ready when the attackers arrived.

But even a greater feat—and the one that won him undying glory in battle, occurred at Austerlitz. While Napoleon's men in a certain sector were taking a

troucing, Moustache calmly moved back and forth among the men of his regiment and happened to be next to the flag-



bearer when an Austrian rushed up and killed the bearer and snatched the falling standard. The snarling Moustache was at the Austrian's throat in an instant and tore the regimental banner from his hands. Then with the standard held firmly in his strong jaws, he went streaking across the field with the tattered glorious remnant flapping wildly. Only when he had carried it back to his company command post did he surrender it.

Many other dogs have been given medals for extraordinary performances. During World War II, army engineers on foot failed to mount a bulky wind instrument on a high snow-covered peak. Finally, an expedition powered by four dog teams did and for this they won the coveted Presidential Unit citation. Guard at Meeting

Then there was "Chips" owned by Edward and Nancy Wren of Pleasantville, N.Y. Chips first got attention when he was assigned as special guard at the Roosevelt-Churchill meeting in Casablanca, 1943. Later, he was assigned to combat duty with Company "I" of the 30th Infantry Division. One day when his platoon was trying to wipe out a machine-gun nest, Chips broke away from his handler and stormed the emplacement by himself. The enemy was so startled that all surrendered—and Chips, deservedly, was cited for bravery beyond the call of duty.

Many a statue has been cast of magnificent war chargers—but more to glorify the commander than the horse. However, war homing pigeons can claim one for themselves. It rests over a gate in Paris in grateful acknowledgement of the tens of thousands of microfilmed messages carried in and out of the beleaguered city during Prussian encirclement.

But to me, the finest testimonial of all to man's partner in war is part of a great Scottish War memorial in Edinburgh. Cut in its base are these words: REMEMBER THE BEASTS WHO HAVE SERVED AND DIED. And underneath this humble inscription are tablets to the dog, the horse, the camel, the ox and the elephant, to the canaries and the white mice who discovered gas in tunnels; and a beautiful reproduction of three pigeons standing by their basket about to spread their wings and carry a message—as they have so often in the past, saving men's lives.

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American Airlines Plane is Searched

Tucson, Ariz.—An American Airlines plane was delayed 30 minutes early Saturday while the FBI and sheriff's officers checked out an anonymous telephone tip that there was a bomb placed in the aircraft.

Capt. Frank J. Murray said the FBI investigation showed the telephone call had to be made from one of the 100 Pima county courthouse extensions. The telephone call was made Friday afternoon but the plane, bound for Chicago, did not arrive from San Diego until 11:45 p.m.

The craft was met by a dozen officers who made a thorough investigation before permitting it to continue.

At the time the Spanish-American war broke out, the United States army consisted of only 2,000 officers and about 25,000 men.

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