

**1915 – 1918**

**GREAT WAR CENTENARY**

**Memories of the Great War**

**THE EXTRAORDINARY WORK  
OF COLLIES IN THE FIRST  
WORLD WAR**

Historical research by **Lucio Rocco**



## **CAPTAIN CIOTOLA'S COLLIES**

### **Dogs and "cagnari" of the Great War**

**by Lucio Rocco**

*These short notes are dedicated to the memory of Colonel Ernesto Ciotola. His love for the dog (and for the collie) was a way to serve and honor the homeland. Thanks to Linda Rorem who firstly told us about him.*

Since the beginning of time man has exploited the loyalty and dedication of his best friend for war purposes. We just see the many reliefs of Egyptian origin, Greek or Persian, or re-read the history of the achievements of the Roman Empire.



**The Captain Ernesto Ciotola and his collaborators**

Some Egyptian writings of 4000 BC describe big dogs which attack the enemies. The walls of the temples Assyrians show images of huge dogs battle that sow terror among their opponents. Attila put terrible dogs guarding his camps. The Spaniards employed hundreds of fierce dogs while spreading the faith in the New World. The dogs were used as messengers by the army of Frederick the Great during the Seven Years War. In the Spanish-American War the dogs were explorers in the jungle of Cuba.

In more recent times the dogs were used with various tasks in the Vietnam War, in the Gulf War , and even in Bosnia and in Kosovo.

The examples could go on and on, but this is not the appropriate forum to discuss the use of dogs in the military field. Here we limit ourselves to give some information about their use in the health service of armies, and especially about what was done in this area in Europe and in Italy, before and during the Great War. It seems necessary in the year of the Centenary.

It was in 1904, during the Russo-Japanese War, that dogs were used for the first time in medical missions for the tsarist army. Their task was to find, assist and transport the wounded on the battlefield.

The statistics on losses incurred in war by the armies in conflict, report numbers quite eloquent about the missing, combatants on both sides, who wounded by enemy fire on the battlefield, died because it was impossible to find and save them.



**Collie for the search of the wounded on great maneuvers**

In the "Giornale di Medicina Militare" (Rome, 1908) the Lieutenant doctor Arturo Casarini reported the alarming proportions of wounded and losses in the war, bringing the number of losses of some famous battles. Here are his dramatic numbers: Second Italian War of Independence, the Battle of Solferino in 1859: 1,700 just on the French side. Franco-Prussian War, the Battle of Rezonville of 1870: 5,472; same war, the Battle

of Saint Privat, 1870: 4,420. Abyssinian war, the battle of Adwa in 1896: 340. Russo-Japanese War, the Battle of Mukden in 1905: 2,050.

To avoid such tragic consequences of the war it was the idea of using the sense of smell and other skills by training dogs to search for the wounded. They would carry material of dressing that would give immediate relief to the wounded, allowing the subsequent recovery under the symbol of the Red Cross.

Thus, in Belgium, Professor Adolphe Reul of the Cureghem Veterinary School, known as the father of Belgian Shepherd Dog, began to study this new use of the dog and in 1885, with 11 dogs that he has well trained, gave to Ostend a demonstration of their skills. Shortly before the outbreak of World War Lieutenant Van de Putte, who had followed the work of Reul, founded the "Société des chiens sanitaires" with the purpose of training dogs for the work of "ambulance", i.e. recovery and safe transport of wounded soldiers.

Even in France the Commander Picard and Captain Jupin were working for some time to this use of dogs. A shelter was built at Etaples and a training school at Satory.

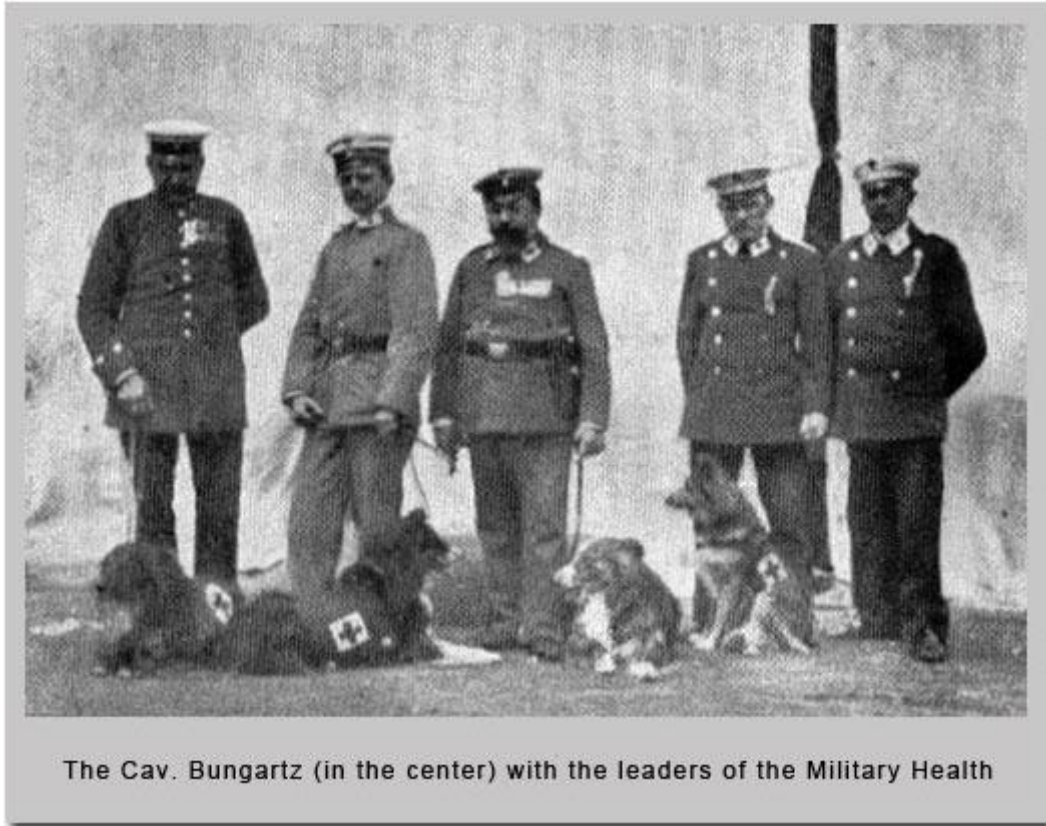
In Austria Captain Laska of the 2nd Hunters of Tyrol (Tiroler Kaiserjäger), had organized two sites for the breeding and education of dogs.

Strangely it was the Swiss people, despite their pacifism, the most diligent in training dogs for the health service. In 1903 the first manual on the subject appeared, "Anleitung zur Dressur und Verwendung des Sanitätshundes" written by Major Adrien Berdez of the Swiss Army, who founded the following year in Zurich the "Schweizerischer Verein für Kriegs und Sanitätshunde". On August 14 of that year the association held the first examination for dogs of war. On that occasion they were seen mainly Airedale Terrier and Collie, but later it was above all the German Shepherd Dog to be used.

The ideas expressed by Berdez in his manual were simple and brilliant, and gave a new direction to the training methods all over Europe. He had realized that since in each mating are inherited not only physical characteristics, but also the mental qualities and disposition to work, then with the use of dogs of a particular breed equipped with the right qualities, these would be transmitted to descendants simplifying much of the work of trainers. Therefore, his opinion was that it was necessary to use only pure-bred dogs. The qualities that Berdez considered essential were both physical and mental: intelligence, good hearing, good sense of smell, speed, lively temperament and great perseverance. Even the color had its importance, it is obviously that white dogs were not suitable for war purposes, being an easy target.



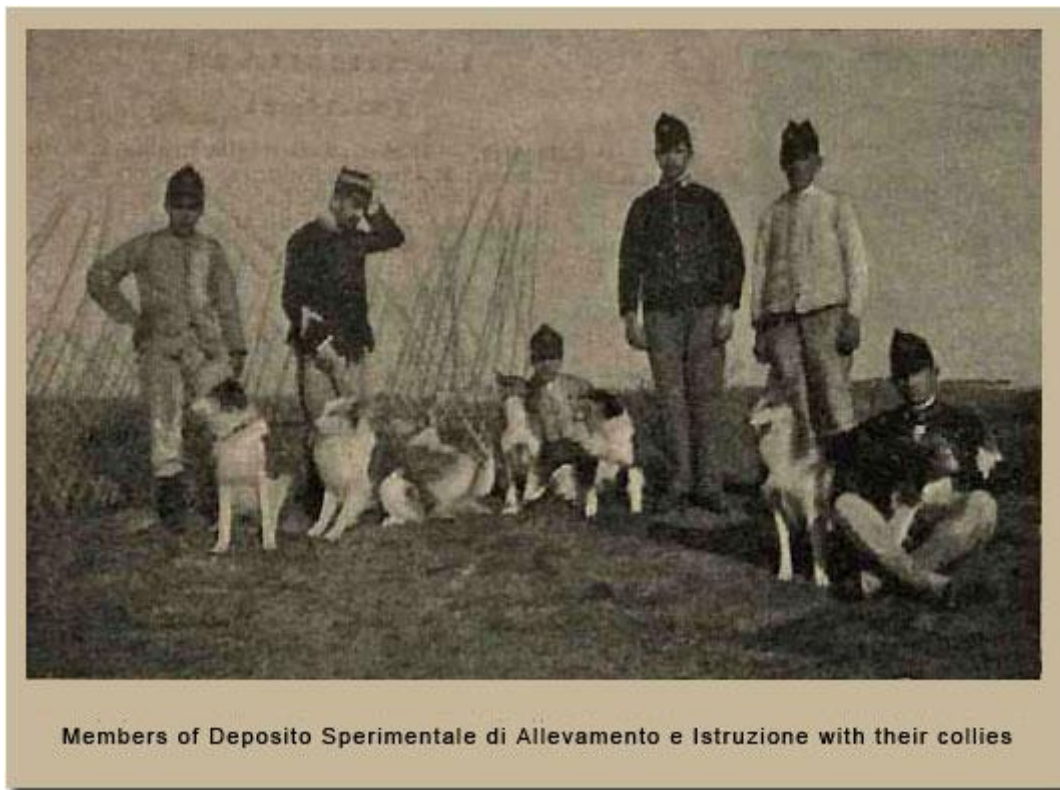
In the same years, in Germany, even Max von Stephanitz, the creator of the German Shepherd Dog, was interested in this type of use of the dog. For this purpose he used at first mestizos of various breeds, then adopting the thesis of Berdez, he began to employ his favorite breed.



But in Germany the most important work in this field was done by the cynologist Jean Bungartz, farmer with a passion to paint animals. In 1893 he founded the "Deutschen Verein für Sanitätshunde" which he directed until 1909.

Strong of the intuitions of Berdez, Bungartz believed that the breed best suited to carry out that kind of work was the Scottish Shepherd Dog so he acquired some specimens directly from Scotland. These dogs were less beautiful than those bred on the Continent for the exhibitions, but they could boast a genealogy of working dogs: their ancestors had for centuries led the sheep on the Scottish Highlands, they had therefore potentially all physical and psychological qualities necessary. Moreover this choice fully agreed with the views expressed by Dr. Lilliehöök, who in Sweden had faced and studied the problem of choosing the most suitable breed, especially in relation to the difficult geographical conditions of the country due to the presence of vast forests. In the newspaper of the Military Health, "Tidskrift militär hälsövård", Dr. Lilliehöök argued that the Scottish collie was the breed preferred for use in rescue missions to the wounded in battle. They would be trained to stay close to the wounded soldier, once found, and to draw attention to the ambulance. The equipment supplied would be made up of a leather

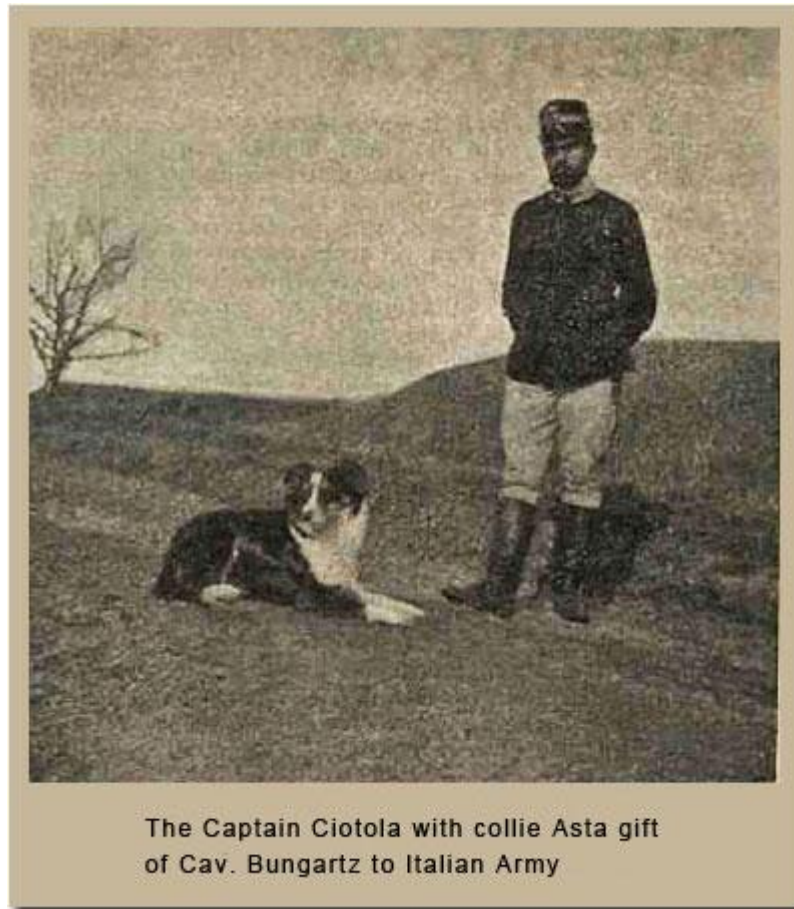
collar, harness waterproof of cotton and two sacks marked with the Red Cross symbol containing beverages, bandages, a blanket and food rations for two days. Weight of all harness: 1.7 kg.



Even in Italy, with the General Stanislaus Mocenni to the Ministry of War, the first experiments began on the use of dogs in health services. In 1893 in Turin with the 7th Regiment Bersaglieri and in Venice with the 71th Infantry Regiment; in 1897 in Pistoia with the 6th Infantry Regiment and in Gaeta with the 33rd Infantry Regiment; later in Rome, thanks to the Captain Ernesto Ciotola, belonging to the 50th Infantry Regiment, and his colleague Lieutenant Valentino Ferliga, author of the wonderful book "Dell'utilità dei cani nei servizi di guerra." The Captain Ciotola, who for his merits had been appointed in 1906 Knight of the Order of the Crown of Italy, had organized a "Deposito Sperimentale di Allevamento ed Istruzione" for war dogs, which had adopted the method of training always used in the Alps for St. Bernard dogs, modified according to the suggestions of Bungartz of which he was an enthusiastic admirer. Later, for climatic reasons, the authority of those health services dogs was transferred to the alpine regiments.

The breed chosen by Ciotola was of course the Scottish Shepherd, especially in the short-haired variety, breed that for intelligence and physical skills seemed to meet all the requirements necessary for a war dog. So Lieutenant Ferliga well justified this choice in an article published in 1903: "The breed adopted is the Collie or Scottish Shepherd dog, short-haired variety; the amateurs therefore have to devote the breeding of this beautiful

animal, whose centuries-old reputation of bravery and intelligence will never be denied and whose most eminent qualities will be of great use for the new and ingenious use."



With the permission of the Italian Government the Captain Ciotola went to Germany to study closely the training methods of Bungartz, and he could assist with satisfaction to exercises held by the XIV German army corps of Karlsruhe.

On that occasion Bungartz gave to the Italian Army one of the best dogs he trained. It was a female collie named Asta.

The exercises conducted by Captain Ciotola and his collaborators took place roughly in this manner. For an order of the commander a dog started looking for the wounded in the bush, where some soldiers had previously hidden. The dogs wore on their backs two saddlebags on which was engraved the symbol of the Red Cross and containing various items of emergency: bandages, disinfectants, beverages. Once it found the wounded, the dog waited for him to take from his equipment what he needed, then the dog came back, bringing something of the clothes of the wounded in its mouth, to warn the driver of his presence.

In May 1915 Captain Ciotola had a promotion as lieutenant-colonel and took command of the 1st Battalion Alps Brigade, a position he held until November of that year



when, promoted as Colonel , he went on to command the 81st infantry Regiment. Subsequently, from 10 July 1916 to 30 April 1917, he commanded the Brigade Parma.

In his book on the German Shepherd in 1921, Max von Stephanitz said that at least 4,000 dogs were used for the health service during the First World War. They saved the lives of over 20,000 wounded, men who would be abandoned on the battlefield without the obscure work of these dogs.



In Italy health service dogs distinguished themselves especially in operations on the Italian side of Monte Bianco and Adamello, where Italians and Austrians fought for almost four years to over three thousand meters. They were mostly Collies that saved the lives of many soldiers wounded in battle, or frostbitten, or fallen into crevasses.

Other dogs were used in the same areas for the transport of food and ammunition, or to take back in the valley the wounded soldiers. They hauled sleds specially built and their conductors (Alpini under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Carlo Mazzoli) were called "cagnari". Before the dogs had been used the mules, but they did not resist at such low temperatures. The "cagnari" worked on Adamello until 3 November 1918 when, after the war, the unit was disbanded.

The history of dogs employees to health services of armies in war is nothing but the ordinary story of the devotion of dogs with their owners. In the difficult conditions of the various war fronts their stories were overshadowed from the epic of great battles, and

yet, they did their duty, neither more or less of soldiers whose obeyed, and many fell on those fronts, with them.

The many dogs used in the First World War until the signing of the armistice shared in the trenches all the dangers, the difficulties and privations of the soldiers. Some of them, like real soldiers, were decorated for bravery. We remember them all with gratitude and respect, even if they have served the most terrible folly of man: the war. But a dog does not judge, never.

## **WAR DOGS IN GERMANY**

### **To be Used in Aiding Wounded Men on the Battlefield**

Sacramento Daily Union, December 4, 1893

The time-honored injunction to "let slip the dogs of war" is being provided with a new meaning in Germany, says the Globe-Democrat. That country is determined to be prepared for the next European war, and is leaving no stone unturned to render its military organization as effective in every branch as possible. Among the preparations in progress for the next campaign is a regular system of dog drilling.



Not only are dogs used by the ambulance corps to seek out the wounded, bring them brandy, water and soup, fetch the ambulance attendants and help to draw the injured on little handcarts to the field hospital, all of which services they perform with wonderful accuracy, intelligence and skill, but they are now attached to some of the regiments as regular four-footed soldiers. In this capacity the first lesson they have to

learn is silence. They are taught to repress the outbreak of barking, by which they would announce their presence to the enemy, and to replace this mode of signaling by a low growl audible only to their friends. This is a difficult lesson, but a more tedious task is to follow. This is to teach the war dog that, while all dogs are dogs, men are divided into friends and enemies, and the way to distinguish them is by the color of their trousers.

The way this fine distinction is impressed on their intellect is by dressing soldiers up in Russian uniforms and make them beat and ill-treat the dogs and abuse them in French and Russian, whereas soldiers in German uniforms are told off in to pet and caress the canine recruits and regale them on that delicacy dear to all beings born in Fatherland, the sausage. At nights the dogs can render good service at the outposts, their quick sense of hearing enabling them to announce the approach of footsteps long before they have been detected by duller human ears. The dogs are also trained to carry dispatches in a little leather satchel, which is buckled on the iron collar they wear. Gray Pomeranians make the best soldier dogs on account of their great muscular strength, their quickness in learning and their unobtrusive color.

For ambulance service, however, Professor Bungartz, the animal painter, who is much interested in this branch of the Red Cross Society, and has himself trained many dogs for it, declares that Scotch collies are the best breed.



## RED CROSS DOGS

THE EDGEFIELD ADVERTISER, September 4, 1895

Lechenich, near Cologne, in the Rhineland, is the home of Jean Bungartz, the animal painter and animal lover, who is at present engaged upon an interesting experiment in dog training.

After success in training dogs for active army duty, reconnoitering, sentry and messenger service, success certified to by the German Government, Mr. Bungartz turned his attention to a new branch of the work, and is the first to train dogs for hospital and ambulance service.

First of all, when scarce six months old, the puppy must learn to obey, to answer to the ordinary commands, "Come here," "Down," "Speak," "Forward, march," and the like. Then he is taught to wear his harness. This last consists of collar, sailcloth rug tightly rolled, and two saddle bags, each with two compartments, to carry dog biscuit, bandages, ammunition, etc. The whole back and shoulder, and when the pockets are filled should not weigh over ten pounds.

When accustomed to his harness and obedient to his master's look and word, it takes several months to reach this perfection, the collie is ready for his professional training.

Reconnoitering is the first in order, but for this it is quite necessary that the dog has learned to "halt" at the word.

When his duties as a scout are fully understood then comes the sentry's training. Here the dog has to learn to take up his position at a given distance in front of his master, and to stand up and return at once when the enemy, again the inevitable assistant, approaches in the darkness. The dog, once in position, is allowed at first several minutes, and then more and more time before the enemy approaches, that he may learn not to relax his attention during the whole time of his watch. At first, of course, the trainer encourages him with "Look out! Keep watch!"

One can easily see what an invaluable aid the dog's sharper senses would render him, when thus trained. Sentry and scout thus aided and protected could not possibly be surprised.

Then comes the "messenger" training. The dog is taught to run short distances between trainer and assistant, back and forth, over all kinds of ground, until, when once the letter is inclosed in the little water-proof pocket on his collar, the four-footed

"dispatch" knows he is to run the direction indicated, and not to allow any obstacle, natural or human, to interrupt or stop him until the goal is reached. The Bungartz dogs are so perfectly trained, and when reported "finished," by their master, they are not dependent upon him, but will take and carry out orders from any man of the regiment into which they are enrolled. The rendering of the words of command to the men, that they may not confuse the dogs with unnecessary talk, is all that is required.



**Red Cross Dog and Red Cross Knight on the Field After Battle.**

"Seeking the wounded" was at first also a part of the army dog's duty, but recognizing the immense importance of this work, and not wishing to overburden his pupils' brains, Bungartz has trained dogs for this purpose alone, and these are the so-called "Hospital or Red Cross Dogs."

For this duty collies are used, as for the other, this race having no equal in hardihood, intelligence and fidelity.

The Red Cross dog wears the same harness as his fellow of the regulars, with the addition of a large red cross on the saddle-bags, a lantern to be strapped on his back at night, and a small flag with red cross on white ground, which he carries when on a message between the ranks of the hospital columns. In the saddlebags he carries, besides his biscuit, everything necessary for the first bandaging, and even a well-protected flask of brand. The dog must be trained with all his harness on, that he may become accustomed to its weight and pressure, and may know it for a part of his duty.

The professional training begins in the room in which the dog has had his preliminary lessons in obedience. His master holds him in leash, while the assistant takes the dog's rug, and lies down on it in another corner of the room.



### **Seeking the Wounded.**

The master leads the dog a little way in the opposite direction, then turns suddenly, and with the command, "Forward, march! Seek the wounded!" leads the pupil directly up to the prostrate man. The latter then gives the dog some favorite morsel, but first the pupil must have obeyed the command to give tongue. Then the process is repeated again and again until on command, "Seek the wounded," the dog, without leash, directly to the assistant and gives tongue at once. Then the lessons are continued out-of-doors, at first in open country, where the distance is lengthened, and finally the assistant hides himself in a bush or ditch, until the dog learns to seek independently.

The last lessons and the tests of the finished pupils are held at night, and Bungartz tells of remarkable work done by his dogs on nights so dark that the seeking party passed within five feet of the prostrate man on open ground, and but for the collie would not have found him. Bungartz's prize pupil, a female collie, not quite a year old, learned in two weeks to find the most carefully hidden man with perfect ease, and independent of any help but the command, "Seek the wounded!"

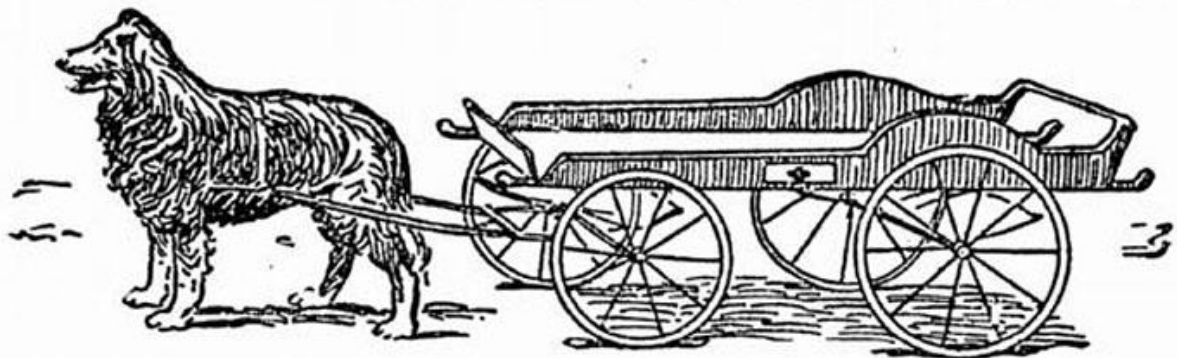
Any war historian, or soldier who has seen battle, can tell how the death roll is swelled by these of the wounded who have crept away into ditch or hedge to escape the bursting shell and rush of hoofs and wheels, and then not found by the overworked hospital columns, are reported as "missing." Or found too late to recover from a hurt

which, but for the delay, might not have been fatal. This is the noble duty for which Bungartz trains his dogs. There is no thicket too close, no ditch too deep but that they can find the wounded man, and, once found, they do not leave him until help comes.

The dogs are also taught to crouch beside the wounded man, if he show signs of life, that he may open the bag and find the reviving flask. The little lantern, securely fastened to the back strap, enables the seekers to follow the dog on dark nights, and brings hope to the wounded when the friendly light appears.

The Red Cross dog is taught to carry messages as does the army dog, and has his little white flag placed in a pocket on the saddlebag that all may know what errand he is on and load him aright or not delay him unnecessarily.

Bungartz has also constructed a model dog ambulance for carrying the wounded from the field, which will considerably lighten the work of the carriers, and the society is to collect funds sufficient to supply the field hospital with these wagons. The dogs to draw these ambulances need no special breeding or training, any strong, sure-footed, docile animal will do.



**Dog Ambulance for Transporting Wounded From the Field.**



## **DOGS OF WAR UP TO DATE**

### **TRAINED NOW FOR SERVICE IN THE RED CROSS CORPS**

THE SUNDAY GLOBE, February 4, 1900

Though the success of the Germans with dogs of war to be used for outpost and guard duty has not been much better than tentative, dogs for another form of military service have done so well that some are to be sent to the British forces in Africa. They can be forwarded by the Germans without danger of violation of neutrality laws, for they are Red Cross dogs.

It is J. Bungartz, the famous animal painter, who has been instrumental in adding this new factor to the medical corps of the army. For many years he and his friends in the association founded by him, the German Association for Life-Saving Dogs, have been working with various breeds to select the best dog for use in finding and succoring wounded men on the field of battle after the fighting is done. The association has 600 members, and counts among its most enthusiastic supporters and workers Duke Alfred of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha. The final result of their experiments has been the selection of the Scotch collie as the best breed for the purpose, and now there are several hundred of these fine animals in the service. The German public takes much interest in the humanitarian objects of the association and extends a considerable amount of financial aid. This enables the association to give a certain number of trained dogs to the army every year without charge.

The collies that are to be trained for military service are selected carefully from the best stock. They are taken in hand before they have been subjected to training or breaking of any kind, and their teaching is given to them in the open country from the very beginning. A leading principle of the training is that the dogs must be taught in such a manner that they will perform their work for fun and with real enjoyment. Therefore coercion is positively avoided, and even the voice is modulated carefully in addressing the dogs.

It is delightful to see the enthusiasm and ready intelligence with which the animals go about their day's work. They are up and out in the fields at dawn and remain hard at it till about noon. While gentleness is the watchword, firmness is used also, and each dog must do his task correctly, even if he has to keep at it for hours. After the noon hour the collies troop back to the kennels, where their grand coats are cleaned and brushed till they shine. Then comes the feeding hour, and after that the dogs are permitted to play or loaf, just as they please.



The first steps in training are to teach the animals to obey signal or word or whistle, no matter how faint or low. Then they learn to report at certain places that are shown to them. After they have mastered this, which is a most difficult task for the puppies, they learn to guard the packages which contain the Red Cross outfits till the surgeon appears. These duties all being mastered, the great work of teaching them to find wounded men begins. At first the work is carried on in meadows and open fields, without cover or bushes. As the collies learn, more and more difficult territory is selected, until each dog is able to find a hidden man without fail, no matter how rough the country or how thick and difficult the cover.

There generally are from ten to twenty dogs steadily in course of training, so that each year a good number can be presented to the army.

Each collie carries a little bundle, with emergency bandages and stimulants. At night he carries a bell besides, so that the men can follow him.

During the recent great maneuvers of the German army the Eighth army corps tried the dogs under the most difficult circumstances that could be devised, and the result was declared to have been magnificent. In twenty minutes one band of dogs found twelve soldiers, who had been hidden away in the most inaccessible underbrush.

**DOG RED CROSS NURSES OF THE RUSSO-JAPANESE WAR**  
**INTELLIGENT ANIMALS THOROUGHLY TRAINED AND WELL-EQUIPPED**  
**TO AID WOUNDED SOLDIERS**

THE ST. PAUL GLOBE, April 3, 1904

*A part from new explosives, new guns, new craft or wireless telegraphy, the present conflict in the East will witness a novelty in warfare - the employment of dogs as nurses on the battlefield. Both sides have enlisted their aid. Dogs bearing full "First Aid to the Injured" equipment are to track dozen wounded soldiers, arouse the fainting, and summon assistance for the ones too far gone to aid themselves. In itself the idea is an elaboration of the world-famed scheme of mercy of the Hospice of St. Bernard, in the Alps - the tradition that has set a crown of canine glory on the shaggy head of the St. Bernard dog.*

The idea of training dogs for use as nurses on the battlefield originated with the Italian government, although the first real test will take place in the conflict between Russia and Japan. That government has established a school at which the dogs are trained. It is from this school that the dogs will be shipped to Korea, Manchuria and Siberia within the next two weeks.

One hundred and five collies have already received degrees from the school at Rome, and bear the medical kit on which flames a big Red Cross. Five hundred more are working hard for their diplomas, and it is from their ranks that the recruits for Czar and Mikado will be drawn.

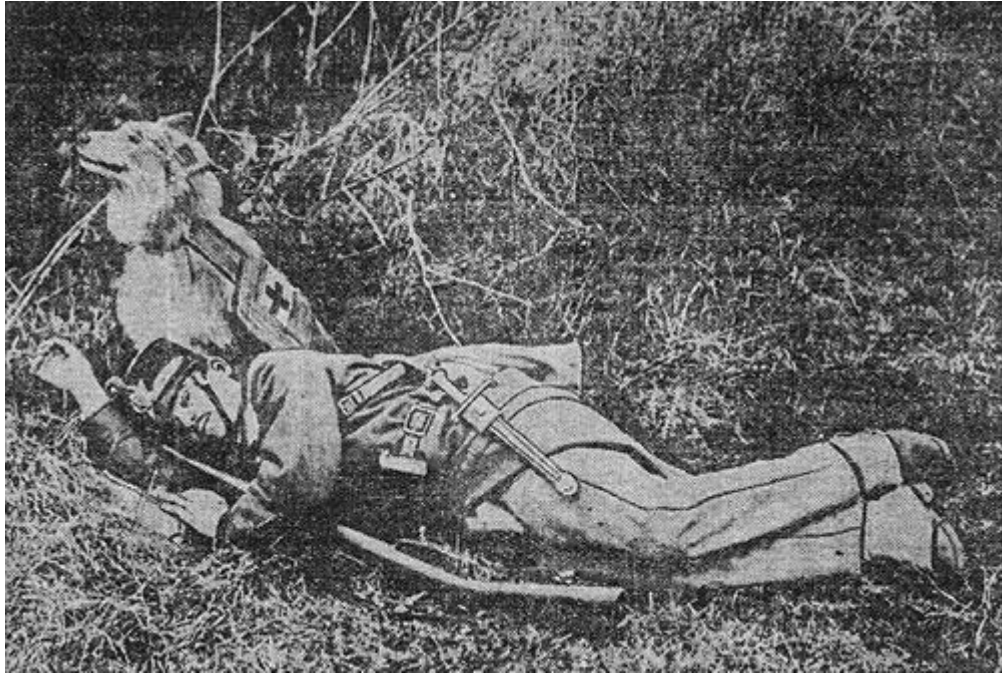
For many months the Italian officials at Rome studied the best means of sending succor to the wounded under the conditions of modern warfare. To one the plan of the Hospice of St. Bernard came as an Inspiration, and a commission was sent to the monastery to see how the dogs were trained. Upon the recommendation of this commission a number of full bred and half-grown collie dogs were purchased.

Sanitary quarters were built for them at Rome, and under direction of the chief army surgeon a staff of assistants began the marvelous work of building up the canine brains to the plane of the Red Cross work.

It was not puppy play at all, and the little collies began to find life a very serious problem. Each dog was first examined by a medical inspector. If he were sound from tip of bushy tail to point of black nose, he matriculated. If the slightest defect was found he went back into the ordinary world of dogs. When twenty-five absolutely perfect collies



had been obtained, the college started in business. Squads of five dogs formed the classes, and a trainer was assigned to each squad.



Instructions to the first class began last September. Five Italian soldiers were allowed six hours' start of the embryo nurses. They tramped in circular courses until it seemed impossible that the dogs would not be bewildered. After walking ten miles to a mountain pass, the soldiers lay down and waited for developments. Every collie hit the trail at once. Three of the soldiers were run down as quickly as the dogs could cover the ground. The other two were not discovered until sunset, but the searchers did not give up until all had been found.

By the end of the week the entire twenty-five dogs were being trained at trailing, and in a fortnight the whole brigade understood that when set at liberty it was the business of each dog to find a man.

The pack would start out noses to ground, and whining eagerly. In five minutes every dog had picked up a scent. If by any chance two dogs were after the same man the one coming in second invariably abandoned the old trail and started off upon a new one.

When all were sufficiently expert in trailing, gray blankets were strapped upon the backs of the pupils. Each blanket was marked with the symbol of the Red Cross and contained two capacious pockets.

In one knapsack-like receptacle were placed two flasks, one for water and the other for a stimulant. Two flat biscuits were also placed in this pocket. The remaining pocket was supplied with a roll of bandages, a small adjustable splint, a soft silk handkerchief to

be made into a sling, and a probing instrument such as every Italian soldier is taught to use.



Then began the second stage in the education of the canine nurse. The second lesson was in barking at the soldier whom he had trailed down until the soldier was sufficiently aroused to make use of the aid at hand. Then they were taught to guide wounded men to the hospital tents.

A more difficult step followed the second degree. The dogs had already learned how to trace down a wounded man, how to offer aid to him and how to guide him to the surgeons. How to summon assistance when the soldier could not help himself was another matter.

Only by infinite patience and labor were the dogs instructed upon this point. After a number of months they learned to send out a wail of distress that could be heard a great distance. A test of the length of time an able-bodied collie could keep up the howl was made. The surgeons gave out, however, before the dogs did, and the problem is still unanswered.

One more step and the preliminary education of the dogs was complete. They must be taught in extreme cases to hurry to the hospital tents for a surgeon and guide him to the sufferer. Before this problem was firmly grasped the brains of the collies were taxed to their utmost. Still they did learn.

A second detail and a third were put through the paces, and under the combined instruction of the veterans and the trainers they learned even more quickly than their

predecessors. Finally one hundred and five highly-trained collies were on the field, and the first brigade was ready for practical work.

At last came the crucial test, the final examinations before the now half-human nurses could gain degrees. All had been trained under the most placid conditions, the trails leading through peaceful meadows and silent woodlands. The collie is a nervous dog, and his preceptors feared that in the inferno of battle he might run away.

Mock battles were ordered. Held in leash during the firing, the hundred and five dogs trembled and groveled in abject terror. Slipped from the leashes they refused to seek the trails, and made for the rear as fast as fear could urge them on.

Apparently the experiment was a failure. But the trainers persisted. In less than two weeks the collies grew accustomed to the bark of the rifles, the thunder of the cannon and the powder smoke.

They trembled, but it was in eagerness to be a part of the conflict. When unleashed every one darted off like arrows to a mark.

In another week the dogs had learned to lie low during the firing, even when unchained, but the moment the guns ceased to speak they wore out upon the arena.

After three months the dogs had mastered every side of their profession.



The Italian government decided to keep the veteran 105, and they are entered as regulars upon the government's books. Five hundred additional dogs, however, were purchased, and are now ready for graduation from the Roman college. In a week or two at most, they will be on their way to the conflict in the East.

The collie dog nurse is essentially a non-partisan. He cannot be taught to distinguish between friend and foe. In the East he will administer impartially to both sides, and the Czar's dog is as likely to lead the Mikado's man into the camp of the Bear as to his own.

*WHAT THE RED CROSS DOG MUST DO TO GAIN A DEGREE AND A UNIFORM*

*Arouse fainting soldier;*

*Trail down wounded men;*

*Pass rigorous physical examination;*

*Guide soldiers back to hospital tents;*

*Race to hospital tent if case is extreme;*

*Disregard the din and turmoil of battle;*

*Learn to howl for help if soldier cannot aid himself;*

*Discriminate between exhaustion and serious wounds.*

But the Red Cross dog cannot be taught to refuse aid to the enemy.



# WAR DOGS

**Maj. Edwin Hautonville Richardson**

THE LIVING AGE, April 15, 1905

The extraordinary characteristics of the dog - his watchfulness, docility, the acuteness of his senses, his affection for mankind, and his speed, enable him to be of immense value for military purposes, and the employment of dogs for such purposes can hardly be called an invention of modern times. Far back in the mists of antiquity we gather that the usefulness of the dog as an auxiliary in war was known, and to the ancients belongs the honor of having first used dogs in this connection. They used them for the purposes of defence and attack, but the war dog of to-day, in consequence of a completely different method of warfare, has to fulfil totally different duties, and, as a means of actual attack or defence, is out of the question. It may not be without interest to recall a few of the historical dates, referring to the many-sided use of war dogs and the many people who used them.

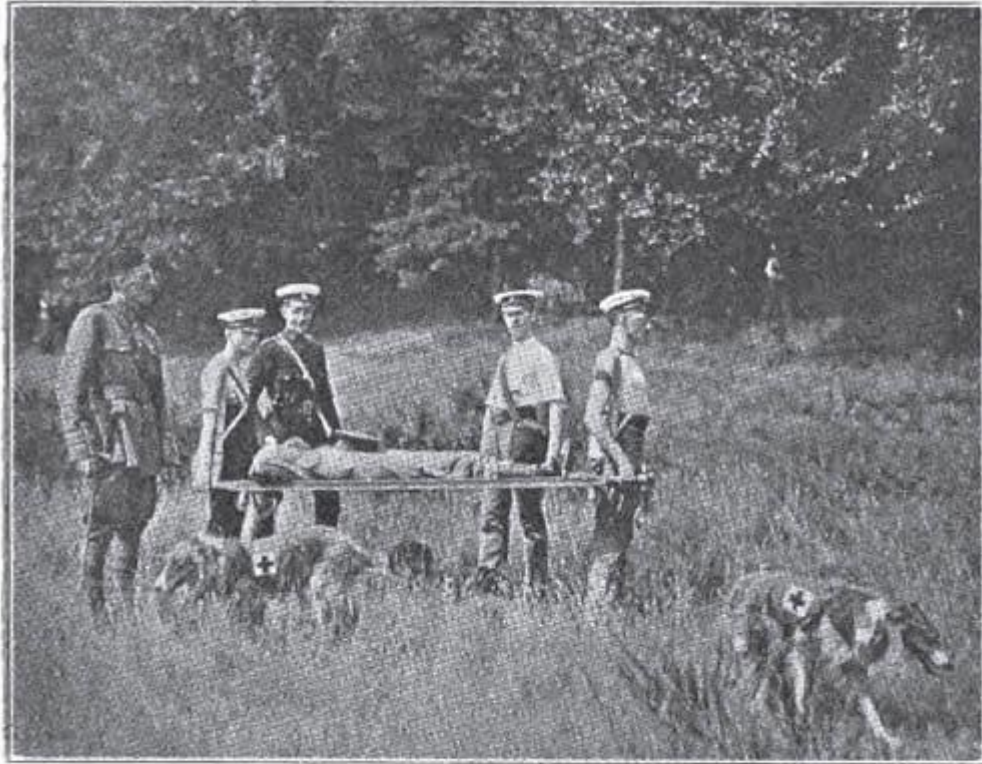
Plutarch and Pliny both mention war dogs in their writings. At the siege of Mantinea, Agesilaus employed dogs as did also Cambyses in his campaign in Egypt 4.000 years B.C. Eneas mentions dogs us being used to carry despatches in their collars. The Cumbrians and Teutons had their battle dogs, who inspired fear in the Roman legions. Vegetius, the Roman military writer, informs us that dogs were posted in towers on fortifications to give the garrison timely warning of the enemy's approach by barking, and on a relief at Herculaneum is a representation of a war dog, clad in armor, defending a Roman post against barbarians. The Gauls had also large packs of war dogs clad in armor, and Attila, King of the Huns, had immense ferocious hounds to guard his camp.

In mediaeval times the war dog often appears defending convoys and luggage; and dogs clad in mail, with scythes and spikes jutting out, were used to distract the enemy's cavalry and bring confusion in his ranks. Even port-fires were placed on the dogs' backs to set fire to the enemy's camps. The Knights of St. John always used dogs on outpost duty, and no patrol was allowed to go out without them. In 1476 the Swiss dogs fought the Burgundy dogs in the battle of Grandson; and at the battle of Merten they destroyed the Burgundy dogs. After the discovery of America by the Spaniards, many of the natives were tracked and worried by the fierce blood-hounds of the invaders. In 1518 King Charles the Fifth of Spain had 4000 dogs and 4000 mercenaries placed at his disposal by the King of England to fight against Francis the First of France. The French and the Spanish, or rather the English, dogs, which acted as skirmishers on both sides, met in fierce battle, but the Spanish dogs came off victoriously.

The Turks also used dogs as scouts. Napoleon, in his campaign in Italy, used dogs as scouts, and one, by name Moustache, became famous for tracking spies. In 1822, when the Greek insurgents attempted to scale the ramparts of the Acropolis, the attempt failed through the dogs giving timely warning to the Turks. The French learned the use of dogs from the Kabyle tribes of Tunis, and by using them were saved from many ambushes. In the beginning of 1882 the Austrians trained Dalmatian dogs to scent out ambushes, and these dogs hunted out the outlaws like game. In the famous expedition of General Scobeleff against the fortress of Geok Tepe, the Russians were so often surprised by the Turkomans, that General Scobeleff ordered dogs to be trained as a preventive of surprise. Then the Germans, always practical, have devoted nearly twenty years to training and experimenting with dogs. Italy, Russia, and France have also taken them up, and the last two countries to be interested in the matter are Spain and Holland, not to mention the use of dogs in the Philippine war by the Americans. England appears alone although knowing more about dogs than any other country in the world, to have left them in this respect severely alone.

Let us now consider the duties and qualifications of the war dog. First, the dog should act as a scout to the body of troops to which he is attached on the march, with the advance guard, rear guard, or flank guard, and keep up communication with the different units of the column. Secondly, he should act as an outpost to the out posts, and establish communication between pickets, supports, and reserves, bring in messages from the patrols, and should render especially good service at night. Thirdly, in an engagement, he should be used for transporting reserve ammunition to the firing line, and establishing communication between the different units in the attack. Fourthly, in sieges or investments, he should reduce the number of sentries on both sides, and protect defenders and attackers from surprise. Also, he should carry messages to or from the besieged through the enemy's lines. Fifthly, and one of the most important duties, he should seek for the missing and wounded, after an engagement, in difficult ground, and render aid until medical assistance arrives. Dogs trained up to this standard must necessarily be an invaluable adjunct to the soldier; but it would be unwise to overburden the dog's intelligence by additional work.

We now come to the necessary qualifications of the war dog. The stamp of dog is one of the most important points. The varied lines on which the different breeds are built, their coats, powers of endurance, intelligence, &c, offer us a large selection, but not every breed is fit for this work. Some show excellent and unmistakable qualities, but again fail in bodily requirements.



**MAJOR RICHARDSON AND HIS DOGS.**

Some lack intelligence; with mixed breeds it is an acknowledged fact that the progeny of such cross breeds is not as likely to maintain the qualities of the parents as pure stock, where the qualities required can be produced. What is required is a medium-sized dog – very intelligent, which will do his work quietly; reliable, watchful, and not easy to be led away. He must be able to stand all weathers, his feet must be hard; he should come of a working stock and be able to stand any privations. In Russia the dog of the Caucasus has been adopted; Austria has made use of Dalmatians; Turkey of Asiatic sheep dogs; Germany of collies, pointers, and Airdales; France of smugglers" dogs (as used on the Belgian frontier), which are for the most part hardy crossbreds. But at the present time Germany, the most painstaking and methodical military nation, seems to be giving the precedence to collies or sheep-dogs — not show dogs, which, as far as my own experience goes, are useless for this purpose, but dogs which come from a - hardy working stock. In my humble opinion, I should say that sable collies with black backs, or dogs with some collie in them, are the best fitted, at any rate for infantry. For cavalry, perhaps, a type with more speed might be employed.

Let us review some of the breeds which are not suitable. Pointers and sporting dogs generally cannot eradicate their love of chase, which, however well trained they may be, might lead to the gravest consequences in military employment. Greyhounds have little Intelligence, bad noses, are difficult to teach, and are all born hunters. Fox-terriers and the other terriers are too small. Bulldogs and bull-terriers are difficult to manage on

account of their pugnacity. The poodle has plenty of intelligence, but is not fitted for the work. Newfoundlands, St. Bernards, mastiffs, and Danes would soon tire on a hot march in summer, and through their size are more in the way than helpful. For draught purposes they could be used, as is done in the Italian army, but they lack endurance and staying power. We now come to collies or sheep-dogs; a pure-bred collie is too highly strung, but the working collie or sheep-dog, which for generations has carried on his daily work, often in most difficult country, in all weathers, with little food, with inimitable affection, and continuous watchfulness and almost human intelligence, comes nearest to the standard required. The smooth collie is also an excellent subject.

Now as regards color. In reconnoitring, dark-colored horses would be employed instead of gray or light-colored ones. War dogs should therefore also be of a non-conspicuous color, and white should be avoided. The sex ought to be taken into consideration, owing to the laws of Nature; it is a mistake to have the sexes mixed. For these reasons it is advisable to use only bitches; bitches are much more affectionate, and much easier to train.

### **Scouting and Messenger Service by Dogs.**

The chief work of war dogs on the march is scouting. In a column without cavalry the duties of Infantry are so severe that it is almost impossible for them to execute the work; enormous fatigues are imposed on the advance guard, the scouts being obliged to double out continually and reconnoitre bushes, streams, woods, swamps, & C.. and then rejoin the main body, probably stale already, owing to forced marches and short rations. The fatiguing work causes many casualties. Moreover, the scouts are so much taken up with the difficulties of the ground that they cannot properly look out for the enemy; hence grave consequences are probable, and an ambushade of the enemy, not properly reconnoitred, may suddenly fall on the column with serious results, especially in wooded districts and in hilly country, where obstacles hinder scouting. It is here where the war dog, while performing the duties at greater speed, would secure the safety of the troops and inspire the scouts with confidence, being able to negotiate the difficulties of the ground much better than an infantryman. The war dog should assist the advance guard, scour the country, and scent the enemy's ambushades from afar; and a dog so trained in peace should be invaluable in time of war. For instance, take the services he renders to the Customs officials on the various Continental frontiers, where the smuggling by means of dogs loaded with contraband has to be kept down.

The war dog should scout out by word of command, and his movements and demeanor should be an easy index of the whereabouts of an enemy, just as the sportsman, by watching his dog, knows when he may expect game; the smallest indentation of ground should therefore no longer serve for an enemy's ambushade when

war dogs are employed. The latter can also scent out tracks of the enemy and bring him to bay; but the rule must be strictly observed that the eyes of a scout are fixed only on the dog to watch his movements, and on nothing else. In reconnoitring hills the scouts should remain at the bottom and put out the dogs over the top. Two dogs would easily run through a small covert and reconnoitre, but for a large wood five to ten would be necessary; a forest would have to be reconnoitred a certain distance round by putting out the dogs 500 or 600 yards round. In reconnoitering defiles the dogs should be sent up both sides and through the centre.



**ENGLISH AMBULANCE DOGS AT WORK.**

In examining villages the dogs should be sent up the principal streets, and all haystacks, gardens, &c, should be visited while looking out for lurking enemies; in fact, dogs do this work far quicker than dismounted men. Also, if posted with flank guards defending the flanks of marching columns, dogs ought to be of the greatest service.

By night marches during fog and rain it is necessary to secure the troops from attacks as much as by day, but night is specially favorable to surprises, and, moreover, surprises at night frequently cause panics, these results being far more serious than attacks by day. At night-time the senses of man are continually at fault, failing to distinguish objects at short distances, and creating very great mistakes. The dog is more gifted than mankind in the respect of nose and ears, and should prove more indispensable by night than by day; and scouts going out at night should be accompanied

by dogs, who would give confidence and calmness and protect them from surprises and ambushes. A lost dog can also find the way when a man is at fault on a pitch-dark night, and a dog should be able to scent out a missing party, for example, in a terrific snowstorm, when the blinding and driving snow renders forward movement impossible. In Switzerland the monks of St. Bernard send forth their noble dogs to find the lost when all other means would be useless. More over, as they find their way and avoid precipices and crevasses with extraordinary intelligence, their use with a rear guard or a retreating army would be invaluable. Independently of his duties in securing the safety of a column from surprise the war dog can be used for scouting with the infantry patrols. As a matter of routine, this is always the natural duty of cavalry, but if there happened to be no troops, a lack of reconnoitring would probably lead into an ambush. Of course, infantry in scouting holds only second place to cavalry. But sometimes it happens that infantry has to reconnoitre; the greatest dangers for infantry scouts are ambushes, and they are liable to be captured even by smaller numbers. If surprised, the cavalryman has his horse to escape on; not so the infantryman, in scouting, whose safety could be doubly assured by having war dogs with him.

We now come to another use of the dog to a body of troops on the march, namely, as a means of connection with the different parts of the column. For long distances the telegraph or heliograph, but for short distances cavalry is best fitted; if there is no cavalry, and if the duties of cavalry are very severe when reconnoitring, the infantry may be left to its own resources. Then war dogs would prove invaluable for sending in news from patrols, and save them much fatigue; while the risk of having a verbal message misunderstood would be avoided. Flag signalling comes first, but as an auxiliary to flag signalling the dog should render great assistance, and, moreover, in foggy weather, driving snow, and very dense country, flag signalling would be of no use. For this purpose, the French and Germans employ dogs to keep up communication between the outposts. The message given to the dog should always be written and placed in a small despatch case fastened on to the dog's collar, stating time of departure, address, &c, and the dog should be despatched in the required direction. The dog at short distances thus performs the part of the carrier pigeon at long distances; but the dog also fulfils numberless valuable duties which the pigeon cannot, although superior in powers of flight, and the pigeon cannot take back an answer, which the dog can. Thus the messenger dog saves fatigue to orderlies and men, and makes journeys over the worst country and in mountainous districts at great speed. A river is no obstacle, as the dog easily swims across, and thus can establish a connection between two bodies of troops.

The value of war dogs to the sentries is to be considered, especially as in modern warfare the night attack appears to be taking a foremost place, because the attacking force can reach the objective without the enormous losses from modern firearms if it can

come up unobserved in the darkness. In the modern system of double sentries, although one man may to some extent inspire confidence in the other, their powers of hearing and seeing are no more increased than with the single sentry; and darkness, storms, and fogs would easily enable the enemy, led by a daring leader and crawling along the ground, to seize the sentries and – then fall on the main body, more particularly if the sentries were fatigued with marching, or suffering from severe cold, or in foggy weather. Therefore, it is necessary, as in Germany and elsewhere, to provide all sentries with an auxiliary who will hear anything at a long distance, and protect them from any surprise. This auxiliary is a trained war dog. A war dog should be attached to each double sentry. A dog can hear anybody coming at night when 400 or 500 yards away, according as the wind is favorable or not. If the night is absolutely calm. But, whatever the night may be, he can hear persons approaching at 200 yards or rather more, and within this range nothing escapes him. This has been the experience of the frontier Custom House officials on the Continent, where dogs give warning of smugglers or their dogs without any mistakes by night at 200 yards. The dogs, therefore, attached to the sentries would watch the 200 yards in front of the sentries, and also the ground between the different groups, generally about 400 yards, each dog's hearing powers being 200 yards naturally; therefore, the main body should be perfectly protected by the double sentries thrown out in front, each provided with a war dog, rendering a surprise or coup-d-main by the enemy a very difficult undertaking. It may be therefore repeated that at the outposts the dogs not employed on sentry can accompany visiting and reconnoitring patrols, and be of the greatest assistance, able to detect the presence of an enemy in the darkest night; they also can be used as messengers to pickets, supports, and reserves, sparing infantry and cavalry from fatigue.

#### **Ambulance Dogs: The Object and Employment.**

The employment of dogs for ambulance work has latterly, on the Continent, become the subject of the most exhaustive experiments. Whoever is acquainted with the medical organization of an army will recognize what an important part the ambulance dog has to play, especially owing to the improvements and perfection of modern fire-arms, which have in like manner made increased demands on the powers of the Ambulance Corps, Army Medical Staff. The area of a modern battlefield, owing to the innovations in long range weapons as means of attack and defence, is enormously increased, and if in this area there are difficult places, such as declivities, woods, etc., the work of the stretcher-bearers is greatly hindered and delayed.

Indeed, it will be even possible that wounded men through loss of blood and weakness unable to call for aid, and unable to move, will be overlooked by the stretcher-bearers, and will only be found when too late.





Of what use then, are the latest discoveries of medicine and surgery when the subjects cannot be found? The German General, Von Herget, expressed himself as follows at a display of ambulance dogs: "However great the progress of medical science, these modern discoveries can only be employed when the wounded are found"; and this finding of the wounded in modern war — as most actions are fought at night, namely, night attacks, owing to the terrible fire of modern rifles which necessitates taking "cover" — is made exceedingly difficult, and in many cases absolutely impossible, for the ambulance, and the only help that can be of any avail will have to be got from ambulance dogs.

How necessary it is to have dogs attached to ambulance corps we can see by examining the lists in the Franco-German war after the battle of Gravelotte, where there was an enormous number of missing. Some of our leading general officers who have returned from the Cape have informed me that, without doubt, dogs would have been of the greatest service for ambulance work. How many poor wounded, who had instinctively dragged themselves away to escape the enemy or from being trampled upon by mounted troops, had waited hopelessly in their hiding-places for medical aid, which they would never get! The stretcher-bearer, however capable and goodhearted, is only human, and the continuous exertion which a long campaign demands from him is apt to blunt his feelings and render him callous and indifferent in his work. We must also reckon that in modern warfare the number of wounded will be much larger, and the work of the stretcher-bearers rendered much more difficult, as the dressing stations, owing to modern rifle fire, have to be located at a much further distance than formerly, and these

distances have to be traversed. These circumstances have evolved the ambulance dogs, whose duties are to aid the whole ambulance work, but more especially the individual stretcher-bearer, whose duty it is to scour the field after the action. By the aid of the ambulance dog, it will be possible to decrease the number of missing on the field of battle, and it can be hoped almost entirely to do away with it; and the chief duty is to find the wounded in difficult ground, almost inaccessible to the stretcher-bearers, and especially in actions by night. With this object the dog is equipped with bandages, so that the wounded who find themselves still able to use their arms can take out of the equipment bandages to stop their wounds, and stimulant, before the keeper of the dogs actually reaches the spot. People may ask, "Can the dog do this?" The best answer to this is the result of the work done in Germany every year at the grand manoeuvres.

### **Miscellaneous Duties.**

There are various other uses to which war dogs can be put. In investing a fortress an enormous number of sentries have to be thrown round it, who would be liable to sudden sorties of the enemy in squally weather, fogs, &c. The hearing powers and scent of the dog would render the blockade much more certain, and diminish the number of sentries. On the other hand, the employment of dogs in an invested place would be useful, as they, by their nice sense of hearing and scent, would be able to give such warning as would guard against assaults, and render valuable assistance to tired sentries in severe weather. They can also be used as messengers at short distances. Regimental dogs, when not on outpost duty, are employed to guard wagons, gun-carriages, ammunition, &c, with convoys for scouting in front, and in connecting the sentries by night. In savage warfare they are extremely useful, and have been used by both French and Russians. The general system of savage warfare lies in ambuscades. In Mexico, in the guerilla war, a colonel of volunteers trained some dogs, who gave the guerilla insurgents a warm time. If they tried ambushes they were scented out, and their plans failed; if they retreated into the depths of the woods they were tracked out by the dogs, and attacked when preparing to camp for the night. War dogs ought thus to be able to prevent the enemy from creeping up in the grass and surprising, giving timely warning; and the march of troops in thick country should be covered by dogs, and they should also follow up the scent of the retreating foe. In action dogs are also trained to carry ammunition to the firing line, their size rendering them a smaller target than a man.

The following notes are interesting regarding work being actually performed now at the seats of war in various parts of the globe.

### **Sentry Work, Scouting, Prevention from being Rushed and Detection of Ambuscades.**

Two hundred dogs, chiefly sheep dogs, are at present attached to the German forces operating in Herrero Land under General von Trotha. One of them, "Flock," has been sent home to Kiel invalided. He was wounded by a bullet in the engagement of Opajbo while scouting in front of the skirmishing line. He displayed the greatest fearlessness under fire, and worked faultlessly until disabled. The Japanese are using a number of dogs for reconnoitring purposes: they are attached to long ropes and well trained. The Russians are employing dogs for sentry and messenger work.

### **Ambulance Work with Russians.**

Captain Persidsky, of the late Count Keller's staff, writing from Odessa, says: "In finding the wounded men with which the millet fields are strewn, nothing has succeeded like our seven dogs; their intelligence, especially the English-bred ones, is extraordinary." Surely, instead of the weird specimens of the canine race which wander aimlessly about our barrack squares and haunt the purlieus of the ration stand, some well-trained ambulance and war dogs would give as much satisfaction to our Tommies, who dearly love dogs; and, kennelled in barracks and fed on the refuse from the cook-house, as in the German Army, the cost to the country would not be ruinous. I have been asked several times to supply dogs to the Russian Army, and only quite recently was commissioned to purchase sheep-dogs in the Highlands for the German ambulance dog-training establishment.

At the Naval and Military Exhibition, the Crystal Palace, Glasgow Exhibition, and Netley, with Colonel Beatson, C.B., of the Central British Red Cross Committee and Glasgow Volunteer Medical Staff Corps; at Stobs Camp, 1904, with the 42nd (Black Watch), before H.R.H. the Duke of Connaught and Sir Charles Tucker, K.C.B.; at Wimbledon, with Dr. Cantlie, commanding the London Volunteer Medical Staff Corps, and elsewhere, I have essayed to demonstrate the military side of the dog's character, long since recognized by leading Continental Powers; and I trust my efforts may not be unavailing in calling the attention of those whom it concerns. Perhaps, instead of breeding and exporting dogs for foreign armies, we may some day find our dogs of service to their own country.

## THE REAL "DOGS OF WAR"

CURRENT LITERATURE, 1905

Shakespeare's famous line "Cry Havoc and let slip the dogs of war" takes on a new and entirely different meaning when we learn that the real dogs of war, those at least now in use, are chiefly for purposes of succor to the wounded — for mitigating the havoc, not increasing it. Lieut. Charles Norton Barney, of the medical department of the United States Army, tells in Scribner's about this modern use of dogs, which has gone beyond the experimental stage and has achieved some actual results in the recent operations in Manchuria.

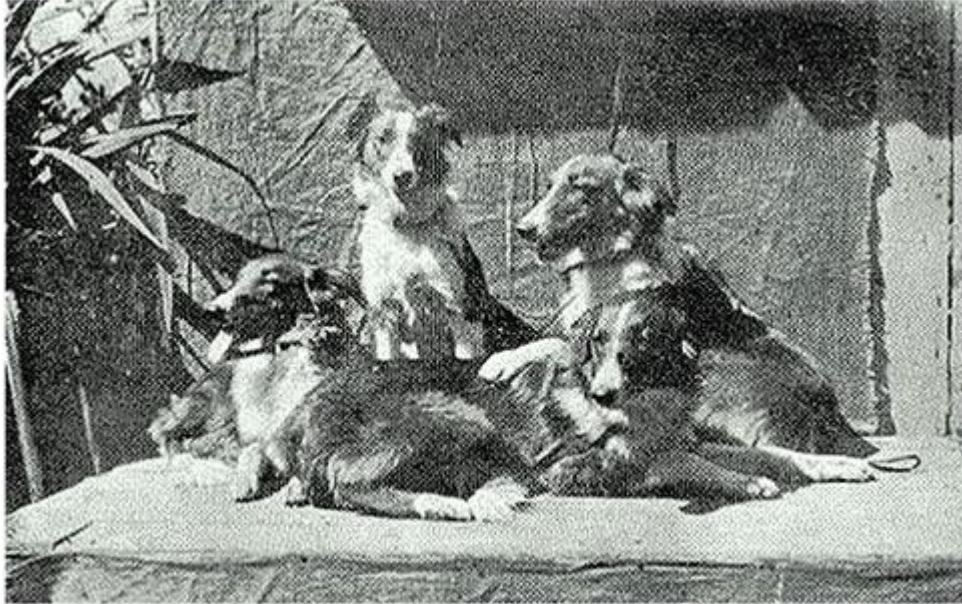
History tells us much about the use of dogs in war as sentinels, scouts and combatants. But the new thing under the sun in this line is the training of dogs into an ambulance corps. The Germans seem to have begun it. Eleven years ago they organized a society (Deutscher Verein für Sanitätshunde) for this purpose, and there are now two dogs attached to each company of sharpshooter battalions in the German army.

In The Army and Navy Gazette (Nov. 23, 1901) appeared an account of an experiment made at Coblenz with the ambulance dogs:

*At dusk the keepers brought out four ambulance dogs. Previously two hundred soldiers had been put out to represent the wounded, and five hundred stretcher-bearers set out in the darkness carrying torches and lanterns. It was an interesting piece of most difficult work, and numbers of officers, mounted and on foot, followed to watch the proceedings. The work commenced in the Coblenz wood, and a more difficult task could not have been found for the dogs. Two dogs worked on the right and two dogs on the left, and notwithstanding the noise and crowds, recovered all the casualties in pitch darkness without lanterns. Two hundred more soldiers had also been placed on various parts of the glaciers of Coblenz; the stretcher-bearers were sent out first this time, and, after having scoured the ground thoroughly, reported eighteen men missing. The four ambulance dogs and keepers were then called for, and in twenty minutes the eighteen men were recovered from the most impossible hiding-places; these men in actual warfare would have been, without a doubt, left to their fate. This trial was considered highly satisfactory by the staff of the Eighth Army Corps, and demonstrated that as, owing to the introduction of smokeless powder, all ranks are obliged to take cover and casualties will chiefly occur in cover where they are most difficult for stretcher-bearers to find, the dog's scenting powers come as a most valuable auxiliary.*

Now the kennels of the German Society for Ambulance Dogs are empty on account of the demand for dogs to be used in the war in Manchuria and the war in German South-west Africa!

Here is an account which Lieutenant Barney gives of experiments made last autumn by the Italian army near Quero:



**Schottische Schäferhunde (Collies)**

*During the night trial the dogs carried little reflecting lanterns about their necks, in addition to the pouch containing stimulant and first-aid packet. In each trial eight or ten hypothetically wounded officers and men, chosen from the observers, were concealed in a rough plot of ground some six hundred yards square, cut up by trenches, roads, walls, trees, and underbrush. The dogs started off quickly in the direction the trainer pointed, and searched every nook and corner of that section of the field until they found a wounded man. Two of the dogs had been taught to return to their master after finding a wounded man, and two had been trained to remain by the side of the patient and bark until the litter-bearers came up. It was thought that the former system worked better in the daytime and the latter at night. Captain Ciotola purposes to combine the two systems by training the dog, after finding a wounded man, to run back to the open space, road, or path over which the bearers would have to travel in order to reach the patient and bark there until the bearers could come up.*

On August of last year three collies bought in Scotland left St. Petersburg for General Kuropatkin's headquarters in Manchuria. The United Service Gazette tells of the tests of these dogs made at Gatchina, near St. Petersburg:

*By night and in rain and fog the dogs have found the wounded whom they were sent to seek and returned to the field hospital, even when it was moved after they had set out, and reaccompanied the bearers back to where they had found the men lying. Asked whether they might not serve equally the Japanese, M. Liadoff said: "The scent will tell them when the men are Japanese, and they will not help them. Even the lowest animals can distinguish between Europeans and Asiatics. Even sharks, which devour Europeans, will not touch Chinese." The three dogs will serve the First Army Corps. Later others will be sent. Ten poods (400 pounds) of patent biscuits are sent with the three dogs for food en route. Each receives three biscuits a day.*

The Scotch collie is considered the best of all breeds for use in war, and especially the black or sable collie. But we fail to find any satisfactory accounts of the behavior of the dogs in time of actual hostilities.



British official photograph, from Associated Illustration Agencies, Ltd.

MESSENGER DOGS BILLETED BEHIND THE FRONT-LINE TRENCHES



# **THE USE OF DOGS IN WAR**

**Lieutenant Charles Norton Barney**

**Medical Department, U. S. Army**

SCRIBNERS MAGAZINE, 1905

Among all the tragedies of war there is none more pitiful than the fate of those poor fellows who are overlooked in the search for the wounded, left to die alone, and dropped from the rolls as "missing." No part of all the complicated medical service of the battlefield appeals more to our sympathies than that which has to do with the finding of the wounded ; and at the same time there is no part which is in a more unsatisfactory state of development. How many times have the searchers come perhaps within a few feet of the spot in the thicket where a wounded man has fallen, or the ravine whither he has crawled to quench his thirst, and have not heard the faint cry which he has put forth his last strength to utter!

We have a small regimental hospital corps personnel available for this work, to be re-enforced by bandsmen, or possibly combatants who have been fighting all day and may be called upon to fight on the morrow; we have a few oil lanterns, and we can make torches; that is all. Portable acetylene lights have been tested in some foreign services, and in a few cases, particularly among the British in South Africa, the electric search-light has been available to illuminate the field on the night following the battle. But the acetylene lantern is scarcely practicable in this connection and the search-light is rarely at hand. The medical officers and hospital corps men, who are detailed to search for wounded, go wherever they hear a cry of pain or a call for help, but they must abandon in woods, thickets, and ravines, many who, on account of haemorrhage or shock, or wounds of the face or of the air-passages, cannot make themselves heard.

A little less than two years ago, while I was looking over a batch of foreign military medical journals, my attention was attracted by a novel picture in a journal published at Buenos Ayres, the "Anales de Sanidad Militar." It was a battlefield scene, a dog bringing litter-bearers to the spot where he had found a man who had been overlooked in the search for the wounded.

This opened a new prospect. It brought to my mind pictures I had seen as a child in old scrap-books, dogs from the monastery of St. Bernard rescuing travellers who had been lost in the snows of the Alps. At first thought the use of trained dogs in searching for and carrying first aid to the wounded on the battlefield seemed a picturesque subject rather than a practical one; but it was sufficiently attractive to invite investigation.





Found and aided  
(German Army)

I searched American literature for any mention of this subject, and found none. Foreign literature seemed almost equally barren. But through correspondence with pioneers in this work abroad, and through the courtesy of various military authorities, I have been able to get some very complete reports of investigations made within the past few months by officers and civilians in the principal countries of Europe. I am very sorry that I am not at liberty in all cases to mention the sources of my information and to give credit which has been highly deserved. There is no novelty about the use of dogs in war as messengers, sentinels, scouts, and even as combatants. The prowess of the war dogs of the ancients is celebrated in fable, in history, and in sculpture. The Greek heroic poems and early historical writings relate that war dogs were used by Aeneas during the siege of Troy and by Cambyses during the Persian conquest of Egypt. Plutarch relates that Agesilaus, King of Sparta, used dogs against the Thebans at the siege of Mantinea, and that Philip of Macedonia kept a troop of large hounds to guard his camp. Ancient Roman historians state that the Cimbri and Teutons had war dogs which were protected by mail and spiked collars, and that the Gauls used war dogs which were much feared by the Roman legionaries. Bituitus, chief of the Arverni, sent a messenger into one of the Roman camps to protest against the advance of the Romans into Gaul. This messenger was an enormously tall man, with a collar and bracelets of gold. Beside him came a bard singing the praises of his clan, and after him, as his chief guards, came a pack of immense hounds pacing in ranks like soldiers. Vegetius relates that the Romans soon learned the value of dogs as sentinels and put them in the towers of fortifications to give warning of the approach of the enemy. A relief has been dug up at Herculaneum which

shows a hound protected by armor, fighting bravely against the barbarians in the defence of a Roman post.

In the middle ages we still find dogs employed in offence as well as in defence. The Scotch bloodhound pursued the enemy into his remotest hiding-places. For attack on cavalry the dogs were provided with a sort of harness or coat of mail covered with spikes and sickles to cause confusion among the horses. Even firebrands were attached to the dogs' armor in order to set fire to the enemy's camp. In 1476, at Granson and Murten, many of the Burgundians were torn to pieces by the Swiss hounds.

History records the employment of war dogs in every century of the modern epoch. Columbus, in fighting the Indians of the New World, constituted his order of battle as follows : two hundred foot soldiers, twenty cavalymen, and twenty dogs. During the conquest of Peru the dogs of Pizarro strangled hundreds of Indians, and at Caxamalca they showed such conspicuous gallantry that the King of Spain issued a decree giving them a pension. In 1522, at the renewal of war between France and Spain, King Henry VIII of England offered his nephew, the Spanish king, Charles V, forty thousand mercenaries and four thousand war dogs as auxiliaries against Francis I. Napoleon in Egypt, a few days before the battle of Aboukir, wrote Marmont to get together all the dogs of Alexandria and tie them at a distance from the ramparts so that they would give the alarm. At Austerlitz the dog Moustache saved his regiment's flag from the Austrians, and in reward was decorated by Marshal Lannes. The French in Algeria learned the use of dogs as sentinels from the Kabyles, and today they turn that knowledge against the insurgent Arabs of Tunis. In Turkey, dogs were used as scouts in the seventeenth century, and they reappeared in the nineteenth at the storming of the Acropolis at Athens, where the surprise planned by the Greeks was frustrated by the watchfulness of the dogs. In 1877 and 1878 the Russians employed dogs in the Turkish war, and in 1882 the Austrians in the Balkans used them to prevent ambushes. In Java to-day the Dutch use trained dogs to guard themselves from surprise by hostile natives. During the recent insurrection in the Philippines the insurgents were warned of the approach of American troops to their villages by the barking of dogs. Nowadays dogs are no longer used in war as combatants, but in most of the countries of Europe they are trained, on a large or small scale, by the government or by private individuals, to act as sentinels on outpost and as scouts in marching through broken country, to prevent surprise by hostile patrols, to guard baggage, and to carry messages and ammunition. The customs guards on the Belgian frontier of France have for a long time employed dogs in a service which is not unlike military service. Having found that smugglers trained dogs to avoid the guards, packed them with lace and set them loose in Belgium to pick their way back to their masters in France, they themselves trained dogs to watch for and fight these smugglers' dogs.

The idea of using dogs in the ambulance service is quite a new one. It appears to have had its origin in the employment of dogs by the monks of St. Bernard to rescue travelers overcome by the snows of the Alps.

In 1893 there was founded in Germany a society called the "Deutscher Verein für Sanitätshunde," which has for its object the training of dogs to search for and carry first aid to the wounded on the battlefield. In the German Army there are two war dogs attached to each company of the Jaeger or sharpshooter battalions; and elaborate instructions have been issued covering every detail of their management and training. These dogs are used principally for aiding sentinels on outpost, for the transmission of information sent in by patrols, and for communication between the chains of outposts, but they have also incidentally and experimentally been taught to recover wounded.

In 1899 a field trial of dogs from the German Society for Ambulance Dogs was made by the Eighth Army Corps at Coblenz, in connection with the hospital corps exercises. Major Richardson, a well-known dog owner of Carnoustie, Scotland, formerly of the British Army, gives the following description of these trials in the Army and Navy Gazette of November 23, 1901:

*"At dusk the keepers brought out four ambulance dogs. Previously two hundred soldiers had been put out to represent the wounded, and five hundred stretcher-bearers set out in the darkness carrying torches and lanterns. It was an interesting piece of most difficult work, and numbers of officers, mounted and on foot, followed to watch the proceedings. The work commenced in the Coblenz wood, and a more difficult task could not have been found for the dogs. Two dogs worked on the right and two dogs on the left, and, notwithstanding the noise and crowds, recovered all the casualties in pitch darkness without lanterns. Two hundred more soldiers had also been placed on various parts of the glaciers of Coblenz; the stretcherbearers were sent out first this time, and, after having scoured the ground thoroughly, reported eighteen men missing. The four ambulance dogs and keepers were then called for, and in twenty minutes the eighteen men were recovered from the most impossible hiding-places; these men in actual warfare would have been, without a doubt, left to their fate. This trial was considered highly satisfactory by the staff of the Eighth Army Corps, and demonstrated that as, owing to the introduction of smokeless powder, all ranks are obliged to take cover and casualties will chiefly occur in cover where they are most difficult for stretcher-bearers to find, the dog's scenting powers come as a most valuable auxiliary."*

The report of the director was favorable; but it is apparently the intention of the German government to free the army of work of this nature and leave it to the volunteer ambulance companies. Further experiments in this line have not, as far as known, been undertaken in the German Army.



**Demonstration by Captain Ciotola (Italian Army)  
The dog has found the wounded man and has gone  
to the nearest elevation in sight of the trainer, to bark**

I have recently received a report concerning an exhibition on a small scale which the president of the German Society for Ambulance Dogs gave with his four-year-old collie bitch, Resi. The ground worked over was limited and known; yet the dog operated with an extraordinary intelligence that permitted a belief of possibly equal performance over a larger, unknown territory. Mr. Bungartz, holding the dog, placed a message in a small wallet tied about her neck. Then he faced to the front, released the dog, and waving his hand in the general direction, commanded, "Forward, march." (The commands are mostly taken from the drill regulations.) At this command, the dog sprang forward, ran alone at full speed across the open separating interval of a hundred yards, up a steep hill into the hands of an assistant. The assistant then held the dog, read the message, prepared an answer, and commanding "Return, march," sent the dog back.

Another exchange of messages was similarly effected across an interval of two hundred yards through the brush, where parties were concealed from each other's view and where their positions were only approximately known. In the search for wounded my informant concealed himself in dense underbrush, after doubling on his trail and completely deceiving trainer and dog as to the direction taken. The dog was then released, and ranging to the front, right and left, after the manner of a bird dog, left the open field, entered the woods, and was very soon by my informant's side. The dog returned directly to the trainer, then again to my informant, and repeated this action until the trainer came up.

At the present moment the kennels of the German Society for Ambulance Dogs are empty on account of the demand for dogs to be used in the present wars in Manchuria and German Southwest Africa.

In Italy the training of ambulance dogs has been undertaken, not by civilian associations, but by the army. About eight years ago, Captain Ernesto Ciotola, medical officer of the Fiftieth Regiment of Infantry, studied the German methods of training, purchased some dogs, and initiated experiments on his own account. Two years ago the Minister of War gave the work his official sanction by detailing Captain Ciotola to carry on this instruction for the army and assigning four enlisted men to assist in the work.

At the manoeuvres of the Italian Army held last autumn near Quero, in the Department of Venetia, there were two important field trials of ambulance dogs. During the night trial the dogs carried little reflecting lanterns about their necks, in addition to the pouch containing stimulant and first-aid packet. In each trial eight or ten hypothetically wounded officers and men, chosen from the observers, were concealed in a rough plot of ground some six hundred yards square, cut up by trenches, roads, walls, trees, and underbrush. The dogs started off quickly in the direction their trainer pointed, and searched every nook and corner of that section of the field until they found a wounded man. Two of the dogs had been taught to return to their master after finding a wounded man, and two had been trained to remain by the side of the patient and bark until the litter-bearers came up. It was thought that the former system worked better in the daytime and the latter at night. Captain Ciotola purposes to combine the two systems by training the dog, after finding a wounded man, to run back to the open space, road, or path over which the bearers would have to travel in order to reach the patient, and bark there until the bearers could come up. During the night exercise one dog found two officers who were supposed to be wounded and ran barking from one to the other. In the other trial a dog which had started out followed by three litter squads was on the search for a fourth wounded man before the litter carrying the first patient had gotten back to the aid station. The trials proved so successful that Captain Ciotola was assured that the

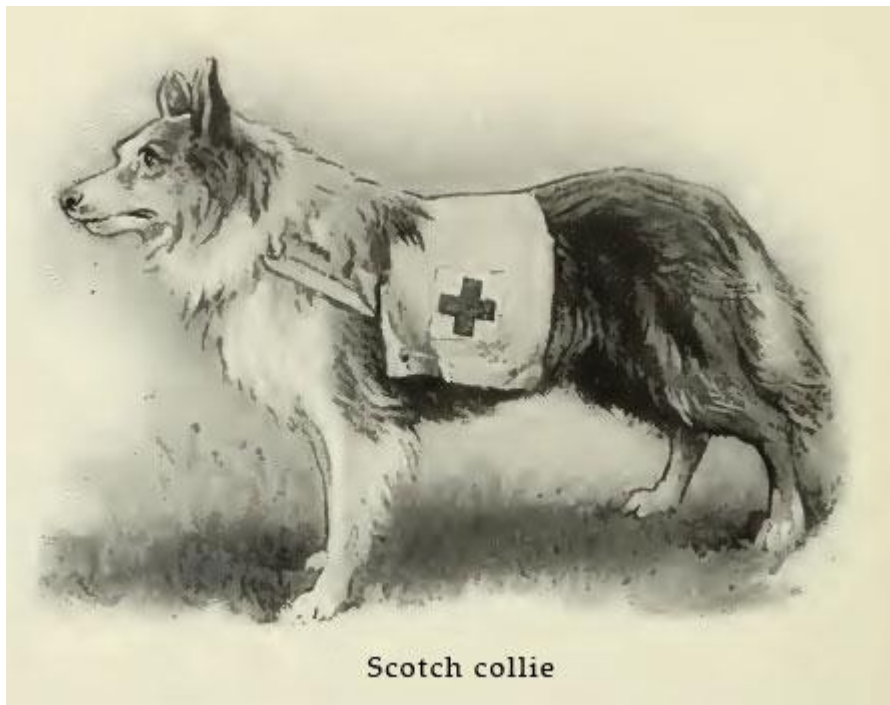
Italian Red Cross Association would take up the subject with the intention of giving a larger development to this service.

I am enabled to give an account of a visit recently made by an American to the training station near the Batteria Porta Furba, Rome. At a word from Captain Ciotola, the dogs ran from their houses to the front of their yards, barking and showing the greatest pleasure at seeing him. They seemed most desirous of recognition and petting. The greatest kindness and gentleness must have been used in the training, for while almost all of the attendants carried dog-whips, these were not used and the dogs did not seem to be afraid of them. The dogs showed none of the cringing so often seen in the best trained hunting-dogs as well as those taught to perform tricks.

Arrangements were then made for a field trial. For this purpose three dogs were selected, saddled with their canvas packs, and put on leash, each in charge of a trainer. Seven soldiers were ordered to a neighboring field of about five hundred acres, there to secrete themselves under different conditions. This field resembled to a great extent our western country, clear of undergrowth, grassy, cut up by dry watercourses, and rolling. The soldiers were completely hidden from view and the trainers had no idea of their location other than the general one that they were posted on and about the whole field, as would be the case in actual war when a certain portion of the country which had been fought over would be searched. At first two dogs were started, beginning at one corner of the field. They coursed back and forth like hunting-dogs, over a breadth of about three hundred yards and at a distance of about four hundred or five hundred yards in front of the trainers. On finding a wounded man they would at once run directly to the trainer and then back to the place of discovery, and if the trainer were not in plain view they would return again to him. At one time when a dog was working about six hundred yards in front it could be seen that he had made a discovery, as he stopped abruptly in his coursing and ran rapidly back to his trainer, although the ground appeared to be level and neither the wounded man nor the spot where he was lying could be seen by the observers, as he had placed himself in a shallow depression. After the work of these two dogs was shown, the third dog was started on a search for two men still undiscovered. The work of this dog was similar to that of the others, the only difference being the manner of announcing the finding of a wounded soldier. This dog would run back about fifty yards in the direction of the trainer and would bark continuously for several seconds, then returning to the wounded man, he would again run barking to the trainer, and he would keep this up until the trainer was quite near.

The dogs worked with their noses quite near the ground, but they did not, immediately on crossing them, pick up the fresh trails of the men who had gone to the places of hiding, and they did not discover the soldiers until actually reaching the hiding-

places, and then, only after thoroughly working the ground. It was particularly noticeable that though the dogs sometimes coursed close together, yet they paid no attention to one another, nor to strange dogs and peasants who were crossing the field during the exhibition.



In the British Army no experiments have been made on the use of dogs for war purposes, either for service with the ambulance corps or as sentinels, but a few individuals have experimented along these lines. Major E. Hautonville Richardson, late of the Forty- fifth Infantry, who is a recognized kennel authority, seems to be the repository of about all the best information on this subject in Great Britain. He studied the methods of training in use in Germany, and brought over a dog to use in training dogs in his own kennel. He has given his attention particularly to the use of dogs in the ambulance service. An unofficial account of test trials which Major Richardson gave at Netley appeared in the Army and Navy Gazette of October 18, 1902.

Up to the present war no experiments had been made with ambulance dogs in the Russian Army. But at the instance of her Imperial Majesty the Empress Alexandra Fedorovna, several military sanitary dogs have recently been bought in Berlin and, together with two hunting dogs of the imperial pack, have been sent with the field ambulance attached to the Thirty-seventh Division of Infantry. The results of the work of these dogs are not known as yet.

The United Service Gazette states that three collies which were bought in Scotland to serve as ambulance dogs for the Russian Army in Manchuria left St. Petersburg on the 4th of August for General Kuropatkin's headquarters. "Tests at Gatchina, near St.



Petersburg, are described by M. Liadoff, their director, as entirely satisfactory. By night, and in rain and fog, the dogs have found the wounded whom they were sent to seek, and returned to the field hospital, even when it was moved after they had set out, and reaccompanied the bearers back to where they had found the men lying. Asked whether they might not serve equally the Japanese, M. Liadoff said: 'The scent will tell them when the men are Japanese, and they will not help them. Even the lowest animals can distinguish between Europeans and Asiatics. Even sharks, which devour Europeans, will not touch Chinese.' The three dogs will serve the First Army Corps. Later, others will be sent. Ten poods (400 pounds) of patent biscuits are sent with the three dogs for food en route. Each receives three biscuits a day."

In the French Army the training of dogs for military purposes is left to individual initiative. Occasionally an officer, for his pleasure and with the consent of his superiors, has done good work in training dogs and teaching his men to use them, but a change of garrison or a new contingent intervenes, and his work is lost. Some of the Alpine chasseurs battalions have war dogs, but they are not officially noticed.

In the Austro-Hungarian Army no dogs are used or trained for the ambulance service, and no publications on this subject have appeared in Austria-Hungary.

Captain I. G. A. Berdez, of the Swiss Army, has studied the training of ambulance dogs in Germany, and has trained dogs of his own in Switzerland. His manual entitled "Anleitung zur Dresser und Verwendung des Sanitatshundes," is, as far as I know, the only formal treatise on this subject extant.

Various breeds of dogs have been tried in these various countries, but the Scotch collie seems to be the favorite. Less is required of an ambulance dog than of a war dog; but keen vision, hearing, and sense of smell are all desirable qualities in an ambulance dog, and intelligence, docility, activity, and endurance are essential. It may be permissible to doubt how much these dogs rely on the sense of smell, judging from the information which is available. Hunting-dogs have keen scenting powers and range well, but their passion for hunting is liable to lead them astray. Poodles become lazy with age. The bloodhound has extraordinary scenting powers, but is defective in speed and in acuteness of vision and hearing. The greyhound has great speed and excellent vision and hearing, but, with the possible exception of the Scotch greyhound or deerhound, is too delicate. St. Bernard and Newfoundland dogs are too heavy and suffer from the heat.

The friends of the Airedale terrier claim for this dog an excellent nose and superior tractability. They hold it to be less nervous and more easily handled than the collie. Though the Airedale terrier's coat is dense, it is wiry and lies close to the body and does not collect snow and ice in winter.

The German shepherd dog has been tried in Bavaria with good result, but it is not a well-bred dog. A Society of the German Shepherd Dog has been formed, with a view to improving the breed.

The German Society for Ambulance Dogs has decided in favor of the Scotch collie, but it rejects the enervated, so-called "improved" species. The coat of the collie is one of his most beautiful points, but too much, both of stamina and other essential qualities, has been of late years sacrificed to an inordinate growth. The German Society procures its dogs from the Highlands of Scotland, where the race has been hardened by rough climate, severe treatment, meagre meals, and hard work. These animals, living constantly in the open air, and accustomed to protect, direct, and supervise herds, have a keen scent, good sight and hearing, with great endurance, activity, and intelligence.

In Italy the collie was used in Captain Ciotola's first experiments, and it has proven so satisfactory that it is still used to the exclusion of all other breeds. Major Richardson considers the black or sable collie the best breed. The collie is perhaps a little timid and needs the best of training in order to acquire the courage and confidence necessary for its work when far from the trainer. It is very affectionate and requires considerable petting. Captain Berdez states that in Switzerland, during the past winter, his collies were seriously impeded and eventually entirely checked when working in the mountains by snow collecting on and freezing to their abundant coats.

The principles which should govern the choice of breeding animals, covering, whelping, weaning, the management of the pup, feeding, the training room, the training equipment, rewards and punishment, are the same in the rearing of dogs for ambulance work as in the rearing of dogs for any other purposes.

The method of training is founded solely on the greediness of the young dog, and therefore the training should begin as soon as possible, say when the dog is about six or seven months old. Dogs bought in Scotland and brought to Italy when about a year old require a longer time to instruct than dogs born at the military kennels. The puppies are allowed to run with the mother when she is being exercised, and in that way acquire an early understanding of what is required.

The preliminary course of instruction includes teaching the dog to answer the call, to lead with and without a line, to lie down, to sit down, to jump, to remain on guard, to bark, etc.. The special course of training for the ambulance dog includes elimination of gun-shyness and of the desire to hunt, swimming, fetching, seeking lost articles, carrying messages, and finally the seeking of wounded and barking or "indicating." Under no circumstances is the ambulance dog allowed to run aimlessly over the country, but he is

taught to search the vicinity of the trainer in any designated direction. Great stress is laid upon his thoroughly searching ditches, thickets, and other hiding-places.

The dog is taught to look upon every prostrate man as the wounded whom he is seeking. The trainer points and moves toward the supposedly wounded man, continually calling out "Seek wounded!" If these exercises are tried first in a place where the dog sees nothing but the trainer and his assistant, he will finally go to the latter, who then caresses him and rewards him after he has barked at command. In the first attempts it can do no harm if the assistant coaxes the dog to him.

The dog is made to understand from the beginning that he must announce his find to his master. He can be taught to do this in either one of two ways: by barking or by "indicating." If he is trained in the first method he remains by the wounded man and barks loud and long until his master arrives.

The barking must increase, becoming louder and stronger, developing finally into a mournful howl. If the dog has been accustomed from the beginning every time he finds a wounded man to bark at command until his master arrives, and only then to be rewarded, he soon learns to bark without being told. If he is trained to "indicate" he returns at once from the wounded man to his master, and by his demeanor indicates that his master is to come along.

It occasionally happens that a particularly intelligent dog who has been trained to announce his find by barking will, of his own accord, learn to combine the two methods. Understanding that his barking is only for the purpose of bringing his master to the scene, and having barked a long time in vain, he suddenly hits upon the idea of going and fetching his master.

Captain Ciotola has succeeded in having four dogs work together in the search for the wounded, and in these exercises they have explored a territory about two kilometers wide and one deep. From this it is assumed that not more than four dogs, perhaps three, will be sufficient for one division. This question will receive close attention during the coming year.

Repeated exercises are undertaken under all conditions and in all kinds of weather, by day and night, in order to perfect the dog in his duties and to make him reliable. The complete training of an ambulance dog takes about three months, during which time the exercises take place daily, though only for a short time (not more than half an hour, for example), so as not to fatigue the young dog and disgust him with the work from the start. Each dog is supplied with a khaki-colored canvas saddle secured by a girth and breast band, in which there are the pockets for the purpose of carrying bandages and a

bottle of cordial. No collar or small keg is carried, as is supposed to be the case with the St. Bernard dog.



It is not unreasonable to hope that in time wealthy dog owners, militia ambulance companies, and the various civilian associations which have rendered such valuable services in the past by supplementing the medical department of our army, may take up the training of dogs to search for and carry aid to the wounded on the battlefield, and thus be the means in future wars of saving the lives of many soldiers whose names will otherwise swell the long roll of the "missing."

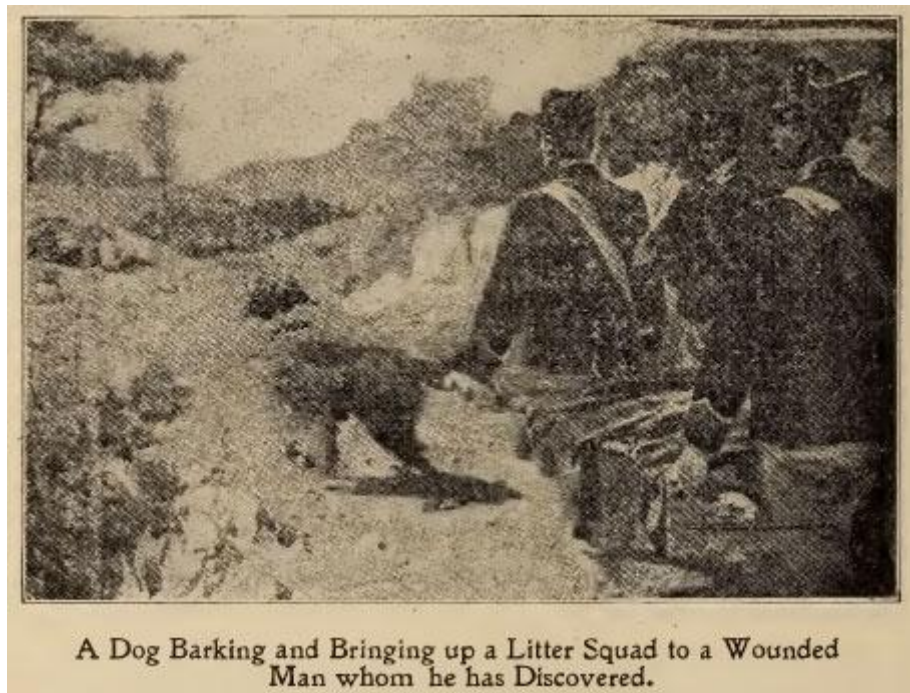
# FIRST AID DOGS

by J. E. Pilcher, Medico Chirurgo

JOURNAL OF THE ASSOCIATION OF MILITARY SURGEONS – 1906

## Part one

The value of the dog in military medical field service has been practically tested, both in the South African War, and more recently in the operations in the far east. Much interest has been manifested in the question in Sweden and a society has been organized for the study of the modifications needed to adapt the plan to Swedish conditions. In Sweden the first aid dog would be of particular value on account of the deep forests and extensive marches found in that country.



A Dog Barking and Bringing up a Litter Squad to a Wounded Man whom he has Discovered.

Dr Lilliehook, Tidskrift i militar Halsovard, believes that the Scotch collie is the preferable strain for first aid purposes because of its keenness of scent. But he considers it not at all impossible to train a native strain of dogs to do as well as the collie. After some notes upon the training of the first aid dogs he emphasizes the importance of not requiring too complicated work of them.

In some countries the dogs are sometimes employed both to locate and transport the wounded. Dr. Lilliehook believes that it is preferable to use them only in searching for patients. They should be trained to remain by the wounded man, whom they have discovered, and bark until aid arrives.

The equipment favored by the author is, in its essential features, that employed in the German service; an ordinary collar, preferably of leather; a harness of light impermeable cotton stuff; two pouches marked with the Geneva Cross and containing cordials, dressing materials and two days rations for the dog; and a small carpet or cover carried in a roll upon the shoulder and designed for use in cases where the dog has to pass the night on the ground in the cold or snow. The harness, which weighs 1 kg. 700, should not be carried by the dog except in case of absolute necessity.

The first aid dog has been the subject of much study and experiment in Germany and a society has been formed, to which reference has been made in the Journal, for the purpose of developing a breed of dog suitable for the purpose, and educating them for the proposed duty. Among the Italians similar work has been done, particularly at the Lands of Captain Ernesto Ciotola. While, so far as we are aware, no work has been done by the regular forces in England in this direction, a number of important experiments have been made by officers of the volunteers with excellent results.

In Manchuria a number of dogs, both of English and German training, have been found of material value and have been utilized to the very best advantage. Full reports concerning their use are not yet at hand, but the advance statements are convincing with regard to the use of the dog.

## **Part two**

In connection with the note upon first aid dogs in the last number of the Journal, it is interesting to know that Major Hautonville Richardson, formerly of the 45th Sherwood Foresters, has been appointed to the Royal Army Medical Corps Volunteers for the purpose of giving instruction to the London companies in the use of first aid dogs in war. This is the first official step taken by the British Army in this direction. Major Richardson, we learn from the United Service Gazette, has devoted nine or ten years to this very practical branch of military medical work, although it is only lately that he has been enabled to secure official recognition. Last year his dogs were used both in regular and volunteer camps and in the summer maneuvers; the year previously a similar unofficial test was made; and on every occasion the sagacity and training of his dogs created a most favorable impression of their potentiality for ambulance work.

The United Service Gazette goes on to remark that Germany was the first country to recognize the possibilities of the trained dogs in field ambulance work, the attention of Major Richardson indeed having been attracted to the subject by chancing to meet, in Perthshire, a German agent who was purchasing shepherds' collies in order to utilize them in the German service. It is not alone as an aid to ambulance work that the dog may be usefully employed in warfare.



The French utilized dogs in the expedition against the Kabyle tribes of Tunis, and freely admit that they were on frequent occasions saved from many perilous ambushes, which had been laid for them, and into which they would have fallen but for the sagacity of their dogs. This is not an isolated instance, for the trained dog is of the highest service as a scout, and if employed with an outpost he adds very much to its importance. During actual operations he may be of the greatest possible advantage in conveying ammunition to those engaged on the firing line; while in the capacity of a sentinel he would, in the case of a siege or investment, prove an infallible safeguard against surprise.

But his greatest sphere of usefulness is of course in the field of first aid. During the Russo-Turkish War, dogs were in constant use by the forces of the Crescent, so that General Skobeloff frequently found himself hampered and placed at a disadvantage through the instrumentality of the enemy's canine allies. He was so impressed by their usefulness that he decided to take a leaf out of his adversary's book and arrange for the training of a number of dogs for his own troops. At the outbreak of the war with Japan, the Russian Dog Breeders' Association undertook to introduce the canine element into the Russian Ambulance Corps, and, after an ineffectual attempt to purchase suitable animals in German), were fortunate enough to secure from the Kaiser himself a gift of three Scotch sheep-dogs, which had been carefully and efficiently trained in ambulance work; these were at once despatched to Manchuria. The Association then itself entered upon the work of training dogs for ambulance service. Austria, Holland, Italy, Spain and Sweden have made satisfactory advances also in this direction.



Major Richardson considers that the type of dog best adapted for training for military service is the black or sable collie, - not the long muzzled and narrow faced breed we are accustomed to see at the dog shows, but the ordinary Scotch collie used by the farmer and shepherd; in the main, however, he puts intelligence before breed. The Germans also favor the use of collies, but the French employ the dogs used by smugglers on her frontiers; Austria has adopted the Dalmatian breed; Russia has selected the Caucasian dog ; while Turkey has fixed on the Asiatic sheepdog as the most suitable for training.

The methods of training are much alike in all countries. The animal first learns to follow his master and give warning of the approach of a stranger by growling. At night it is conveyed to a quiet spot by its trainer, and after a time an assistant endeavors to approach in the most cautious manner possible, the dog being taught to give warning and at the same time to check his bark at the behest of the trainer. The animal is then taught to run to an assistant, who is at first in sight, and later in the course of instruction, is hidden at progressively increasing distances, the teaching being but an amplification of the game of hide and seek which such dogs are so fond of playing with children. The application of this part of the training to the scenting out and locating of wounded on a battlefield is the simplest possible matter. In addition to the restoratives and dressings which the dogs carry, they also are provided with a pencil and paper which a disabled man may use in scribbling directions as to where he may be found and what he needs, the dog having been taught that upon the return of the pencil and paper to his wallet he is to go back to his master. If the man is incapable of self help the dog understands that he is to call help by barking, remaining with the patient if assistance is near at hand and going for it if it be not within call.

All of this is so similar to the inherited tendencies possessed by the sheep dogs, who for centuries have been following and leading their flocks, that its utilization in searching for the wounded is a very simple matter. The usefulness of this element in military medical service indeed is so evident that much value may be anticipated from the continuation of the work inaugurated in the British service by Major Richardson, whose dogs participated most creditably in a practice drill on Wimbledon Common the evening of March 3rd, where a battle was supposed to have been fought during the day, and where dogs were used in searching for the wounded lying without the reach of electric search lights which had been provided by the Electrical Royal Engineers Volunteers. Major Richardson was himself in the searching line and personally supervised the work of his dogs, who located the wounded with great promptness and precision. It is suggested that the training of a kennel for first aid might, with material advantage, be added to the work of the American army hospital corps companies of instruction.

### **Part three**

Amid the gorse near the windmill on Wimbledon Common an interesting exposition of the work of ambulance dogs in war was recently given by Major Richardson, assisted by members of the Hautdeville Royal Army Medical Corps (Volunteers).



Two dogs were equipped with canvas jackets fitted with first aid appliances and little casks containing brandy and water. Both were smaller than collies, though containing a good deal of the collie, with a dash of the retriever in one case, and of the Eskimo in the other, and their work was to discover "wounded soldiers" for the ambulance party in attendance. It was impossible for the dogs to work by scent on the present occasion owing to the number of persons crossing the common, while the absence of blood was another drawback to a complete illustration of their usefulness. But they worked by sight and sound excellently, quickly discovering men, and docilely lying down by the "wounded" men so that the latter might help themselves to stimulants and bandages. Major Richardson stated that he has sent several of his trained ambulance dogs to the Russian army in Manchuria, and that the German War Office have also given him an order. (United Service Gazette).

### **Part four**

The Bulletin of the American National Red Cross notes that after the battle of Chaho three dogs discovered twenty-three wounded who would have been abandoned and would otherwise have died.

The Russian commander in reporting their work makes the curious observation that the dogs, accustomed to Europeans, had never discovered any Japanese wounded. These dogs, generally collies, were trained to become accustomed to firing, never received any food save from their masters, and were taught to go willingly into battle. When a dog

finds a wounded man he is trained to bark until the litter bearer, guided by his barking, reaches the patient. The Russian report remarks, "what services may not be expected from this modest four-footed creature, whom neither the obscurity of the night, the advance sentinels of the enemy, nor the roar of the cannon turns from his task!"



Field Dressing at Liao Yang, with First A'd Dog.

# THE DOGS OF WAR

by W. G. Fitzgerald

THE OUTLOOK, Vol. LXXXV, 1907

We know the dog as policeman in Central Europe; as life-saver he has worked in the Alps for a thousand years. But the dog regularly enlisted in every great army of the world, whether in the Red Cross Department, or as scout and dispatch-bearer, is surely something of a novelty.

In the Franco-Prussian War, out of 129,000 casualties, 13,000 were returned as "missing;" and who shall say what agony those unfortunates suffered? Every war of the future, however, will see the dog mitigating its horror. In Germany the education of the war dog is at this moment undertaken by a voluntary society with nearly two thousand members, among them some of the most distinguished officers in the world's greatest army.

The idea is not new. Xenophon tells us of Spartan dogs that wore huge spiked collars, and were probably used much as we used bloodhounds years ago against the once powerful Seminoles and Sioux. Again, there were the mastiffs that followed the Knights of Rhodes and scented out Turks miles away. The Dutch used them also in their age-long war with the Achinese, both as ambulance dogs and as dogs of war.

For there is a difference. The war dog proper is used for sentry, messenger, and scouting service; while the ambulance dog's training impels him only to scour the battlefield in search of the wounded and missing. That it is unsafe to use one dog for another's work was seen in the recent great German maneuvers, when an ambulance dog was sent on a message, and, having found a man really wounded, through being dismounted and trampled in a cavalry charge, he remained pathetically behind with him, and forgot all about the real business upon which he had been sent!

The exigencies of modern warfare not only necessitate an enormous extension of the battlefield, but also compel the troops to take every possible advantage of natural cover. This and the fact that wounded men will use their last strength to seek protection from artillery fire, cavalry charges, and the wheels of galloping guns, in such places as thick bushes, ditches, and natural holes, will show how difficult it is for the over-worked stretcher-bearers of the Red Cross Department to notice prostrate figures not readily seen. Moreover, it must be borne in mind that modern warfare is carried on very largely by night attack, and at night, too, the wounded have to be collected.



ONE OF THE WAR COLLIES OF THE BRITISH ARMY RETURNING WITH A MESSAGE IN HIS POCKET. HE HAS TRAVERSED SIX MILES OF COUNTRY

The clever modern electric and acetylene searchlights are useful only for open country; and in broken ground the brighter the light, the darker are the shadows thrown. The ambulance dog, however, is entirely independent of artificial light, and relies only on his extraordinary power of scent. Last year, during the great Austrian maneuvers, two hundred men were left lying on the field to represent the wounded; and the stretcher-bearers, working against time, overlooked thirty-eight of these. Within twenty minutes the Viennese dogs had discovered them all.

Each dog carries about his neck a flask containing brandy or soup and also a roll of bandages. The wounded man, having made what use he can of this relief, gives the dog his cap or belt, and the intelligent creature at once races off with it to the ambulance attendants, whom he conducts to the rescue with all speed.

A great authority on the dogs of war, like Surgeon-General Haecker or General von Herget, both of the German Staff, can tell marvelous stories of the dogs which the Allied Troops took with them to China for the suppression of the Boxer rebellion. The Italian dogs especially distinguished themselves, having had great training on the mountains of Savoy; they were collies chiefly, and had long been employed with the Bersagliere troops in their operations on the Italian side of Mont Blanc. These dogs had frequently rescued soldiers who had tumbled into crevasses or had fallen frostbitten on the march.





ITALIAN AMBULANCE AND SCOUT DOGS

Some of them, by the way, took a very active part in the mimic warfare, for they carried a canvas satchel connected across their loins with a belt of light bent-wood, intended for the conveyance of ammunition to the firing line. The French in Algeria have also used dogs in this way in their warfare with the Arabs. One canine favorite with the Oran garrison was three years ago decorated with the stripes of a corporal, and has just been raised to the rank of a full "sergeant" on account of his preternatural sagacity! He is one of those rare dogs who can be used indifferently as scout, sentry, despatch-bearer, or seeker for the wounded on the battlefield.

His name is "Toto," and his education commenced at the age of eight months. He is a Russian Borzoi, and he and his inseparable mate, a German boar-hound, are considered among the most valuable members of the garrison. They do not even mind being harnessed to light ambulance carts and assisting to haul the wounded to the hospital tent or wagon, after they have found them prostrate on the field.

But it is the German army authorities who have adopted war dogs on the largest scale, and thus stamped the institution with the seal of permanent value. General von Herget, speaking after a Series of experiments with ambulance dogs, remarked: *"However great the progress made in the Army Medical Department in the treatment of wounded, the comforts of science can only be applied when the wounded have been found; and this question is an exceedingly difficult one in modern war, with a vastly extended battle-front, night attacks, and the imperious necessity for taking cover. Indeed, in many cases the rendering of aid to missing wounded is impossible without some special help such as is ideally afforded by these dogs."*

Austria, Switzerland, Great Britain, Holland, Italy, and France followed the greatest of military powers in this matter; and now the dog is thoroughly established in the battlefield as a unit of high value. It is realized that hundreds if not thousands of men

may owe their lives to canine searchers, or at least the mitigation of terrible suffering, such as the dreadful thirst resulting from loss of blood.

The Russian army in Manchuria employed hundreds of specially trained collies, and Captain Persidsky, of the late Count Keller's staff, reported to his chief: *"In finding the missing and wounded with which the millet fields were strewn, nothing even approached our pack of seven English dogs. In our last engagement fifty-three men were found more or less badly wounded in utterly unsuspected places, where the stretcher-bearers and the surgeons would never have even dreamed of looking."*

On another occasion with the Russians all the wounded were found by the dogs in places where otherwise they could not have been discovered at all, but would merely have been reported missing. In the most recent German maneuvers, when the Emperor himself commanded a division of thirty thousand troops of all arms, with its due complement of dogs, the officers of the Prussian Jaeger regiments found the performance of the ambulance dogs beyond all expectations.

Under most unfavorable conditions — a broiling sun, among total strangers, in close, overgrown country unknown to the dogs, and with an entire lack of scent except that of numerous foxes and other game — they carried out their work of finding the wounded with unerring zeal. Prince Adolf of Schaumburg Lippe had a night trial at Bonn, when the dogs discovered casualties which could not be found at all by even the most experienced of the ambulance men. Similar trials were carried out by Captain Ciotola, head of the Ambulance Dog Establishment in Rome, which has been subsidized by the Italian Government, with surprising results.

As to Great Britain, every year her War Office authorities carry out exhaustive tests of war dogs, both at Aldershot and in the great territory recently acquired for military purposes on Salisbury Plain. The scene during one of these night trials is most weird and impressive.

Long shafts of dazzling light thrown by portable search-lights sweep the entire range of rugged, boulder-strewn common, and under these rays the engineers and dogs glide silently through bracken and undergrowth seeking for men supposed to have been wounded in a battle just fought, with a front extending over fifteen miles. The dogs had been specially trained in Forfarshire, Scotland, by Major E. Hautonville Richardson, of Carnoustie; and the way in which they corrected the human searchers by bringing to light supposed casualties in out-of-the-way places had to be seen to be believed.

As the bearer sections advanced, with the Major and his dogs, the collies would be loosed from their leash with the sharp words, "Seek, laddie!" Instantly the eager and powerful animal would spring into the undergrowth, nosing silently and swiftly among the



bushes and long grass, ever searching and racing, and covering more ground in one minute than one of the ambulance-bearers would in a quarter of an hour.

Jangling bells about the dogs' necks enabled them to be followed easily by the stretcher-bearers. After a few thrilling minutes in the darkness, with the vast blinding beams from the search-lights playing this way and that, a bell that had been carefully followed would suddenly cease ringing, and a low, piercing whine from the collie would proclaim a "find."



TRAINING A DOG TO ATTEND A WOUNDED MAN ON  
THE FIELD OF BATTLE—GERMAN ARMY MANEUVERS

Hurrying to the spot, the officer and his stretcher-bearers would find the soldier lying collapsed and prostrate on the ground, feigning to be very far gone indeed. He was lifted tenderly on to the canvas stretchers, while his savior gave a series of low delighted barks and wagged his tail as the Major rewarded him with kind words and caressing hand. The dog immediately resumed his search for the next casualty; and soon the cry of "Bearer company" from out of the darkness would bring the stretcher men up at the run. After this, for some time, the dog searched over a large area in vain. Suddenly he plunged into a dense growth of bracken on the left flank of a hill. Major Richardson judged that this was too far away for any wounded men to be found, and called him back. But the dog ignored him, and, as no bell could be heard, the eager creature was followed, and found standing over two prostrate "wounded" almost wholly buried in ferns and bushes.

In Germany the war dog plays many parts besides searching for the wounded. Thus he guards baggage, and will carry despatches at great speed and with many wiles, escaping rifle-shot and bursting shell (he is thoroughly accustomed to both), and getting through an enemy's lines where cavalryman or trooper would merely court inevitable destruction.

The training of the dogs is by no means easy, and calls for sympathy, insight, and immense patience. They vary in intelligence, just as human beings do; and some of them readily see what is required of them and take to the work with great zest. As regards their equipment, the great military nations have various systems. Bungartz, in Germany, equips his dogs with a saddle, which has several pockets, in which are placed neat bandages and surgical dressings; while round the animal's neck is a small barrel with brandy or other stimulant.

Il Capitano Ciotola, esperto italiano, pone la sua fiaschetta nelle tasche della sella. Captain Ciotola, the Italian authority, places his flask in the pockets of the saddle. Colonel Malentieff, the Russian staff officer charged with the instruction and maintenance of war dogs, provides his four-footed soldiers with lanterns. Major Richardson, however, the English military trainer, considers that the equipment should be as simple as possible. He thinks the bandages and stimulant unnecessary, since British troops carry all their "first aid" dressing on their person. Also, he points out that if a wounded man were able intelligently to take the bandages and stimulants from the dog, he would surely be in a fit state to call out for the stretcher-bearers. Undoubtedly the extra weight of these articles hinders the action of the canine scout.

*"My own dogs," he told the writer, "wear a very light canvas saddle with no pockets, but with the Geneva Cross on flaps at either side. Each wears a leather collar and a loud bell. They are attached in relays to the bearer companies of the Ambulance Corps; also to companies of the Royal Army Medical Corps, and to volunteer bearer companies."*

Their real use is now internationally acknowledged, as we have seen; and this is especially felt after a battle, when the searchers have collected all the wounded that are visible, and yet it is known from the roll-call that many are still "missing." The great difficulty lies in having dogs trained and ready in sufficient numbers. For it is utterly useless to take untrained dogs into the field in time of war.

A model establishment is, perhaps, that of Italy, where, in the Roman military headquarters, there is a regular training establishment for the "dogs of war," and a large stud of dogs are kept in constant training in peace time.



RED CROSS SEARCHERS FOR THE WOUNDED AND MESSENGERS OF THE BRITISH ARMY

And hither officers come from all parts of the country, from the Alps to Mount Etna, to get practical instruction in the value, selection, and education of the dogs.

## **THE "DOGS OF WAR", NOW ARMY NURSES**

### **How the French Army trains Dogs to Search Out the Wounded Among the Dead on the Battlefield and Convey Them to the Hospital**

**Dr. Henri Meurisse, French Surgical Corps**

EL PASO HERALD, November 16, 1913

On the 14th of July, at the review at Longchamp, after the brilliant marching of our special ambulance corps, when the Algerian sharpshooters had been applauded as they passed, and the Singalese had been acclaimed as they followed the masses of infantry, the "Porpoise" corps was seen. This was the most amusing as well as most instructive feature of the morning, for it was the corps of sanitary dogs commanded by Captain Tolet.

Held in leash, forty of these roughcoated beasts, wearing the insignia of the Red Cross, trotted along in front of the stands where thousands of persons looked at them with astonishment. Up to that time the dogs of the sanitary squad had never been lined up as part of the army, and many did not know it existed. The official employment of these valuable auxiliaries in the rank of our sanitary service is a happy innovation; and we are to be congratulated upon the success of this movement for the training of dogs for sanitary service.

Thanks to the president of the organization, M. Lepel-Cointet and his coadjutors, Captain Tolet, Messrs Krauss, Caucurte, Drs. Granjux and Kresser, and other aides, our army now owns a sanitary corps of dogs.

What, then, is the service which these dogs can render on the field of battle to the wounded? Who does not recall the Saint Bernard dog discovering unfortunates buried in the snow, and bringing help to them?

This is exactly what our army dogs, can do. Thanks to his keen scent he finds the wounded quickly. If he has been well trained, he helps all he sees, then guides the surgeons and nurses to the sufferers by his sharp barking.

His services are by no means superfluous. Battles are more murderous than ever today (as has been demonstrated in the late wars the Balkans). The Sanitary Corps is all too small for the services required. It is most difficult, especially at night, to find the wounded among the masses of dead. If the army has conquered they may give as much time as is needed, but if it is fleeing, in retreat, they must hasten and often leave many of the wounded on the field because they are not discovered at once.



The surgeons and nurses are apt to find only those wounded men who he most exposed, but those who have dragged themselves aside, or are beneath the heaps of dead, are apt to be overlooked. If they have no dogs with them they are sure to pass by many who might be saved.

The man with a broken leg, who has dragged himself into the bushes, is not seen and may die of thirst and hunger, just because he is overlooked.

It is reported that in the war in Manchuria 41.7 per thousand of the officers were missing and 71 per thousand of the privates Russians. The Japanese had a record of 5,021 privates and 53 officers who were missing. In the war of 1870-71, 4,009 Germans were missing and 11,914 French. On August 16 the French had 1,367 killed, 10,402 wounded and 5,472 missing. The Germans had 4,421 killed, 10,120 wounded, 967 missing.

Many schemes have been devised for finding the wounded on the field of battle and not having to abandon so many, but none works like this of the dog corps. It is impossible to light up the field of battle, for even though the victorious army might do so, the defeated host would certainly not be permitted to do it. Nor should it be forgotten that even in daylight we do not find all of the wounded. The whistles which it has been suggested to furnish to the soldiers, to be used when wounded are not effective, especially if the wounded man is unconscious, as is so often the case.

The dog also seems practical, and indispensable as an adjunct to the sanitary corps. Has he not proven his value on the battlefield? In the war in the Transvaal the

collie dogs saved the lives of hundreds of the wounded. During the war in Manchuria the German dogs of the sanitary corps rendered great service, especially at the battle of Cha-Ho.

The idea of using dogs in this way is not altogether new. It had its origin in Germany. It has advanced so far there that they have more than two thousand dogs trained for this service. The French society organized for this purpose has already some two hundred or more. But it requires further development.

All kinds of dogs are not adapted to this work. The French dog is the best type for the purpose, because of his intelligence, keen scent and faithfulness. He is at least equal to the German sheep dog, usually taken for the corps. Airedale terriers are quite adaptable, and almost any dog from the hunting dog to the ordinary farm dog may be trained to serve.

He must be brought up especially to search for the wounded, the training to pull a cart for carrying the wounded is only secondary. There are some practical objections to the dog carriages, but it may be useful under special conditions.

In ancient days they used trained dogs for fighting in the army, for the bas-reliefs of Herculaneum and some historians speak of them. Vercingetorix used dogs against the Roman troops led by Caesar. But our modern armies would hardly desire dog companies to fight with them.



Training a Dog to Draw a Wagon Carrying a Wounded French Soldier.

The real office of the dog in the army is to search for the wounded, and the Red Cross should serve as their protection. He will once more prove himself the friend of man calling the nurses and surgeons to the side of the sufferer, dogging into the heaps of the dead to find those whom the nurses would never discover.

Every army should have thousands of these trained dogs, ready for the greatest and most merciful service.



## HEROIC DOGS OF WAR

### **They Have Distinguished Themselves As Scouts, Sentinels, Ambulance Aids and Life Savers.**

EL PASO HERALD, April 7, 1915

One of the most interesting features of this war has been important and useful part that dogs have played in it.

Dogs have been used to draw light guns, to act as assistants to the Red Cross service, to do scout duty and for several other purposes. Dogs were employed in ancient wars and their usefulness has for some years been urged by European army officers. This is the first important modern war in which they have been tested. They have fully justified the strongest claims made by their trainers in many branches of military work.

Germany has 2.000 trained dogs in the field, both the French and Belgians are using them extensively, and England has a corresponding number.



The Russian Government recently invited Major Richardson, of the British army, to Petrograd to judge the army and police dogs. Major Richardson found that the best dogs belonged to the Ismailovsky regiment, which exhibited thirtyfive dogs, for night sentry work, drawing ammunition and carrying messages. The next best regiment was the Preobrashensky, and the third was that of the Sharpshooters of the Guard.

Germany uses her dogs chiefly for ambulance work. In the enormous, wild, thinly populated area in which she is fighting against Russia it is extremely difficult for the medical officers to recover all wounded men. Here the ambulance dog with his keen scent becomes of enormous value. These ambulance dogs have saved hundreds of men in the German army.

The Belgians have developed the use of dogs to drag machine guns and light quick-firing guns more than any other army. The dogs can pull a gun farther and over rougher ground than a horse. They do not succumb so easily to hard conditions and by avoiding the use of a horse they represent an important economy. They have better chance of escaping the enemy's bullets than a horse or a man.

The Belgian police dogs have for some years established their reputation as among the most intelligent and most courageous members of the canine race. These are the dogs that have done the best work for their country during the present war.

Major Richardson, of the British army, has trained many dogs for sentry work, and they have done some remarkable feats for their country during the present war. He also trains dogs for all the other kinds of military duty that have been mentioned here.

The Major began by employing bloodhounds for military purposes, but he is now more disposed to make use of Irish terriers and other terriers of a large type. These dogs have the wonderful smelling capacity of the terrier, great activity and courage and sufficient weight and muscle for rough work and fighting.

Well-trained dogs have proved very valuable as sentries. The dog can smell a stranger when no human enemy can detect him. There is no chance of a surprise attack by night when an Irish terrier is on guard.

While the dog has been showing his value and courage in war, it is only right that some public recognition should be given to his services. The British soldier receives the coveted Victoria Cross for some extraordinary deed of bravery. Why should not a brave dog receive some corresponding distinction for risking his life? This was how the matter appeared to the British public.

At the regular London dog show just held a place of honor was reserved for fifteen dog heroes. Unlike the other animals present they were not chosen for beauty of form or purity of race. They were there because they had done something.

Wabbles, who belongs to Dr. A. Conder, of Bognor, on the coast of England, saw two young Frenchmen in danger of drowning after shipwreck, drew his master's attention to them, and then swam out, dived and brought one ashore.

James, a Sealyham terrier, belonging to alias A. O. Richardson, of Stamford, saved fate mistress and her household by giving an alarm of fire.

Tony, of Malines, in Belgium, is one of the dogs used in France and Belgium for military and police purposes. They find wounded soldiers, bring back something belonging to them, such as a cap, to the base and then take help back to the wounded man.



Lassie, a cross-bred collie belonging to Mrs. M. Atkins, of the Pilot Boat Hotel, Lyme Regis, saved the life of Able Seaman Cowan, of H. M. S. Formidable, one of the boat load of survivors who came ashore there. He had been given up for dead and laid on the floor, but the dog lay down beside him and licked his face. The warmth of the dog's body against his hearth and the constant licking set the circulation going and revived him.

[http://www.pastorescozzese.com/mondo/formidable\\_i.htm](http://www.pastorescozzese.com/mondo/formidable_i.htm)

Horses have played an even more important part than dogs in the war, but the frightful destruction of them is the most striking fact to be recorded. It is said that horse at the front does not last on the average more than three weeks, and that millions of them will be killed. Horses will become scarce throughout the world as a result of the war.

If men have died in France, in Germany, Austria and Russia by tens and scores of thousands, then it is no less true that the horses of the cavalry, the horses that haul the

field guns, the horses of the transport trains, have paid their fearful price. Indeed, American officers say that it is very questionable whether any of the contending armies has in its ranks today a horse that performed duty in the first week of the war.

# **MORE RED CROSS DOGS FOR AMERICA**

**by WALTER A. DYER**

THE RED CROSS MAGAZINE, January 1917

It has been estimated that over 10,000 dogs are in use by the various armies at war in Europe; how many more have lost their lives in service no man knows. This fact alone is sufficient to prove beyond argument that the dog is a military adjunct of the first importance. But in spite of the example of the other nations at war, our Government has thus far done practically nothing toward the securing and training of dogs for the American armies and ambulance service abroad. It is high time that we made a serious beginning.

The military dogs are no hobby; their usefulness has been amply demonstrated. In Europe they are used, in the main, for three purposes — as ambulance assistants and searchers out of the wounded, as scouts and messengers, and as sentries. To a small extent they are used as ammunition carriers as well, while terriers have been employed to rid the trenches of rats. Of these activities the most valuable, probably, is the first.

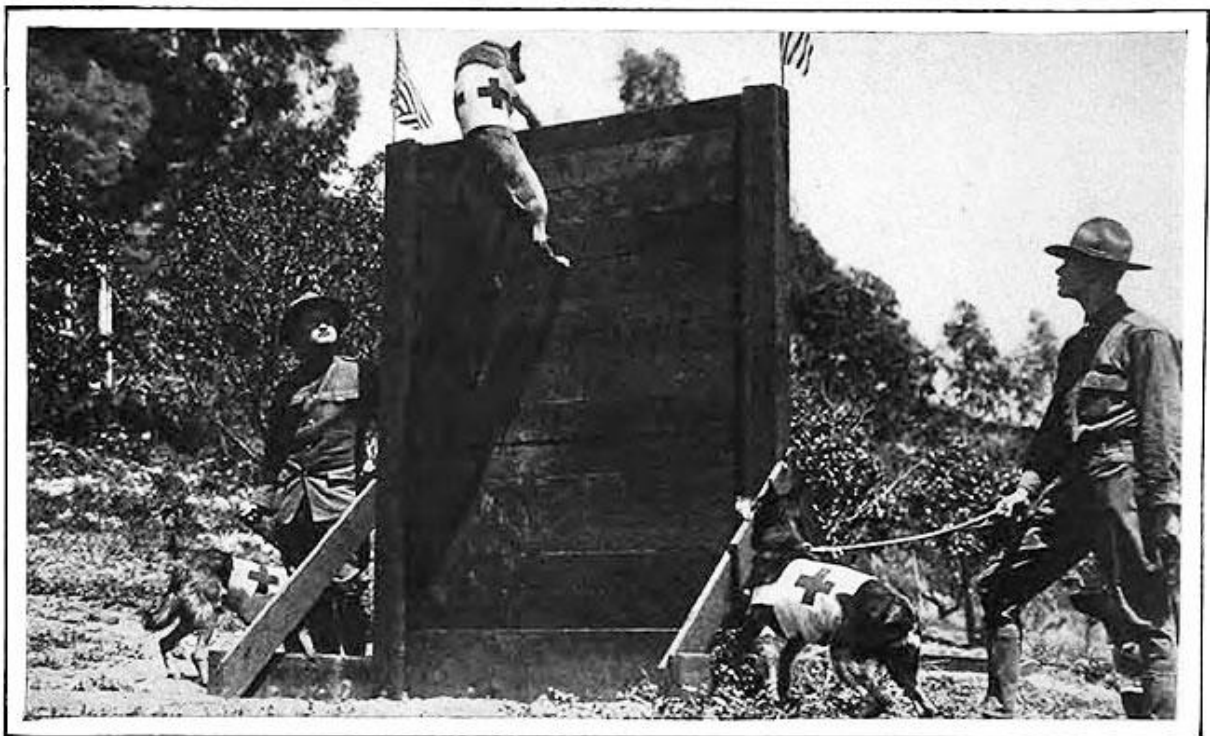
I have before me a sheaf of clippings from newspapers, magazines, and journals devoted to dogs in which are recounted literally hundreds of instances where dogs have saved the lives of wounded soldiers during the present war. I am tempted to reprint some of these stories, for the sake of their emotional appeal. But they are, after all, only isolated instances. They are simply indications of the great work being done by the dog on European battlefields, a work of which we have taken little or no official cognizance. These stories lead me to believe that not a day passes on the French and Belgian fronts that does not find some dog, unmentioned in the orders of the day, braving shell fire and bullets in the discharge of his appointed duty, and perhaps laying down his life in the heroic effort.

For the dog can do what no man can. He can dash through shot and shell, swiftly and to a position where it would be sure death for a man to go. He can find the wounded by his superhuman sense of smell, distinguishing the living from the dead. He can bear water and restoratives to the stricken soldier, and then, by bringing back a helmet or other object, inform his masters of the wounded man's presence, and then lead them there when it is safe to go.

These things he does every day on the battlefields of Europe, finding the wounded in the blackest nights, saving nobody knows how many lives. Shall we, then, send no such willing servants with our American boys when they sail for France?

This idea of the war dog is no new thing. Most modern armies, with the exception of our own, had trained squads of dogs in service before the outbreak of the present war. It is recorded that the idea originated with Herr J. Bungartz, a celebrated German animal painter. In 1885 he began a system of training with a number of dogs. He experimented with several breeds, including the German pointer, but he found the Scotch collie to be, on the whole, the most adaptable and clever.

The training of war dogs was then taken up by France, followed by Russia, Austria, and Italy. St. Bernards, German and Belgian sheepdogs, and spaniels were used. Japanese officers, who studied the subject in Europe, favored the collie, which was also used by Turkey. In the British army collies were trained as ambulance dogs, chiefly by Major E. H. Richardson of the West Yorkshire Regiment, who also found bloodhounds to be useful. The ambulance dog became a permanent establishment of the British army, and trials were held regularly at Aldershot. Some of these collies were used with good results in Manchuria by the Russian Red Cross.



#### OVER THE TOP

The Red Cross has undertaken to supply dogs trained for sanitary corps and expects to send them over to work with our troops as soon as they are needed

At the outbreak of the present war all of the principal belligerents at once perceived the advisability of increasing the canine arm of the service. The Germans drafted thousands of dogs. The French followed suit, and proved to be even more skilful in the training.

The proposal for a supply of war dogs has not lacked ardent advocates in this country. The German Shepherd Dog Club of America and the Army and Police Dog Club of the United States have both been active in promoting the propaganda. Miss Anne Tracy and other interested individuals have been active in Washington, but thus far without notable results. Miss Tracy writes me as follows:

*"The Red Cross has undertaken to supply dogs trained for sanitary work to the U. S. Medical Corps, but up to now there has been no real work done excepting with a few dogs which went unofficially with one of the California units. Early in May Senator Brady of Idaho received a letter signed by the Secretary of War requesting him to procure the necessary legislation to permit the army to use whatever funds were necessary for the purchase, training, and maintenance of dogs for military purposes. Senator Brady introduced a bill, but the legislation was blocked by individual senators who knew little and cared less about the matter, and although the General Staff and the Medical Corps have recommended it in every possible way, we realize that it may be months before they can get the appropriation. The Government, as you know, is not allowed to accept gifts which require continued expenditure, so we now hope for success through the Red Cross, which has accepted the offer of some members of the German Shepherd Dog Club and expects to send over dogs to work with our troops as soon as they are needed.*

*"One tentative plan follows: Dogs will receive their preliminary and trial training on this side at a place designated by the Red Cross. All those dogs proving themselves inapt, shy, stupid, or physically unsound will be returned to the donors or sold. Dogs will be shipped to France in units of twelve in charge of a trained man and will receive their final training on the other side before being assigned to their guides for service with troops. Dogs will be under the control of the U. S. Medical Corps while in service. Dogs must be intelligent, loyal, and fearless. Either sex is acceptable and dark coloring is preferable. Police training is not desirable. Dogs to be trained should be between eight and twelve months old. We hope for donations of dogs suitable for service."*

Accordingly, the Red Cross is to take the initiative in this matter, and it is earnestly to be hoped that members and friends of the organization who own suitable dogs or who are in any way interested in this matter will cooperate to the end that the Red Cross dog will soon be a recognized institution. As I have said before, the Red Cross dogs will be especially dear to us now that they may succor our own boys in our bitter fight for liberty.

A certain experimenter has written me as follows: *"I have been interested in the German shepherd dog for Red Cross work for about a year, and established a training camp near Pasadena some eight months ago. I was handicapped in my original stock, as the good dogs are very high priced, and I find it makes a great difference whether they*



*are descended from trained stock or from untrained specimens. I was fortunate in securing a trainer who, though he had never handled dogs for Red Cross work, had put in most of his life breaking shooting dogs for field trials, private work, etc.*

*"We have eliminated from the course of training all the police dog work — that is, attacking, refusing food from strangers, etc. — specializing in trailing, forced retrieving, jumping, and other work which might be useful in the Red Cross service. My first and greatest mistake was to train the dogs in the country. When the Ambulance Corps No. 1 was organized in Pasadena, I gave them a pair of the dogs which were letter perfect in their work on the ranch. We made the two boys who had them in charge work right with them every day, and there was practically nothing you could ask them to do that they would not go through with. We failed, however, to take them down into the town, and when they left for the East they were badly frightened, bands, street car and the like being too much for them. Since they have been at the training camp at Allentown, however, they have settled down and I understand are doing very well. I have four or five others trained, or partially trained, all of which I expect to give to the Red Cross units in this vicinity when they are called out."*

The training, indeed, is a serious matter, and one which cannot be hurried through successfully. One of the first things the dogs are taught is to find articles that have been hidden. Then they are sent to find men who have been stationed as decoys. They are also taught the scale barriers eight feet high and to carry messages. They learn to bark or to keep silent on command. Strict discipline must be observed, and no command must be permitted that is not enforced, although the whip should never be employed. It takes time to train an ambulance dog as he should be trained, and, what is just as important, it takes time to train the man that is to handle him.

The German shepherd dog has been found to be well suited to this work. Powerful, steadfast, and hardy, he is well fitted to stand the strain, and he is intelligent enough to learn his work. It is unfortunate, however, that the idea has spread that it is useless to attempt to train other breeds. The truth is that any dog of sufficient weight and stamina, that shows himself apt to learn, may be found useful for the Red Cross service, whatever his breed. The British have found the collie to be entirely satisfactory, though there is this to be said against any of the shepherd breeds or hunting dogs: It is the human scent that must play the leading part in the war dog's work, and a breed that had been trained through generations to work on the scents of animals may sometimes go wrong.

Mr. Sam Crabtree, an English dog authority, in a recent interview, strongly recommended a cross between the bloodhound and the Airedale terrier, combining the man-finding ability of the one with the intelligence, speed, and gameness of the other. It is my personal belief that our best chance is with the Airedale terrier — not the small

type seen in the bench shows, but the large, rugged fellows, weighing sixty pounds or more, that are now quite common in the West, where they are used for everything from sheep herding to big game hunting. Police officials in New York inform me that the Airedale is more difficult to train than the Belgian sheepdog, but when once thoroughly broken to his work he has no equal.

We have plenty of dogs in this country, plenty of Airedales; our canine resources are great. The question must be taken up in a big, thorough going, methodical, efficient manner, and if the Government won't undertake it, the Red Cross must, or hundreds of our American boys may suffer and perish.



THE CANINE BRANCH OF THE ARMY

Photograph from International Film Service

At the outbreak of the war the principal belligerents realized at once the importance of training dogs for the battlefield. The Germans drafted thousands of them but the French are, perhaps, the most skilful in the matter of training

## **PRESS CUTTING**

STAR, July 3, 1891

### **AMBULANCE DOGS**

The successful experiments which have been made abroad with dogs as military messengers have caused the German authorities to employ them in yet another capacity on the field of glory. There are, at the present moment, a number of shepherds' dogs in training for finding the wounded on the battle-field, as formerly the St Bernards were trained to find the frozen wanderers on the lonely paths of the St Gotthard. The regiment of lancers stationed at Huelben possesses a dozen of these shaggy-coated members of the ambulance corps, which have been taught to hunt up any soldier hidden in the woods and fields in the neighbourhood of the garrison. On finding a soldier they run back and bark till the ambulance waggon arrives, when they return with it to the very door of the hospital.

THE MORNING CALL, August 28, 1892

### **DOGS OF WAR LET LOOSE**

#### **Interesting Experiments by the German Military Authorities**

During the last year numerous experiments have been made in Germany with the Scotch collie dogs for military purposes, especially during times of war, and it has been found that this dog is the best and most available among the various breeds of dogs and from now on, according to the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, trained collies will be added to the standing armies of Germany and France.

The services to which the Scotch collies will be trained are numerous. They will serve as messengers for carrying dispatches and ammunition.

They are furthermore trained for reconnoitering and for hunting up the wounded and carrying them on ambulances, especially constructed for that purpose, to the field hospitals.

For the latter purposes these dogs are said to be particularly valuable.

BREEDER AND SPORTSMAN, January 13, 1900

## **THE USE OF DOGS IN WAR**

The use of dogs in war dates back to the Greeks and Romans, but the modern idea of training them for special military service was born in 1886 in Germany, and for the past ten or twelve years each battalion of German jagers has had eight or ten dogs assigned to it for this training. The two or three dogs thus falling to each company are placed under the care of a non-commissioned officer and two men, and each regiment has an officer detailed to superintend their instruction. The dog is to be used for various special duties, such as the service of information and security or scouting on marches and reconnaissance in patrols, sentinel duty with the outposts, as messengers on both these duties, as carriers of supplies and ammunition on the battlefield, and to hunt up the wounded after battle.

To test the results thus far obtained, a number of dogs belonging to various regiments were assembled at Oils in Prussian Silesia last July for trial. There were sixteen dogs in all, six of them under two years old. They were tried on the following points: Conduct as watch dog, return from patrol, following master by scent alone, and lying down. The first point was tested by placing the dog with his master at an outpost giving only a limited view and then causing two jagers (in enemy's uniform) to approach under cover from a point about 400 yards distant. The second and third points were tested by sending four dogs at one time from an outpost (or patrol) to four different sentinels, then back again to the outpost (or patrol), back again to the sentinel, and once more to the outpost (or patrol) the latter having meanwhile changed its position. The various points were given values, and one of the dogs received 96 out of a possible 100. The dogs were of different breeds and crosses, but the best were collies and shepherd dogs. The average rate of travel of the dogs as messengers was about 9,5 miles an hour.

Much interest is taken in this subject in other armies besides that of Germany, and, when once the best breed is determined, dogs may be specially bred for military service and a considerable number utilized in the armies.

The Salt Lake Herald, September 2, 1900

## **RED CROSS DOGS**

### **Trained to Locate Wounded Men on the Battlefield**

Where the ambulance or Red Cross dog scores on the battlefield is this: The wounded man, but for stands great risk either of receiving attention when it is too late or perhaps is over looked altogether in the search, says London Golden Penny.

The dog is so splendidly trained that once set free, he immediately commences his search and on finding a wounded man return to his leader and guides him direct to the spot, the bearers following at a given signal.

Herr J. Bungartz the famous animal painter to whom I am indebted for information, is the president of the Society of Red Cross Dogs, which he himself founded in 1893, under the distinguished patronage of the Duke of Edinburgh. This society, which, by the way, has some, 700 members enrolled, undertakes the breeding of these dogs and training them free for the government army service. One is glad to hear that the breed of dog used, and which is alone to be relied on, is the Scotch collie. At a recent trial at some manoeuvres in Germany these dogs behaved remarkably well scenting the men, who had hidden themselves in a densely grown wood, in a few minutes.

The society possesses breeding and training stations at Lechinich, Rhenish Prussia, where there are about twenty dogs. Naturally, the dogs are taken in hand when young (five months old) and great care is observed so as to avoid any undue compulsion in their training.

The day's work commences at dawn, when the animals are turned into the fields. After a few hours coursing they are groomed thoroughly and at midday receive their feed, which only takes place once a day, consisting of dog cake, broth and vegetables. Gradually the training is increased in difficulty and thickly grown forests take the place of the open field.

The dogs never leave the kennel except to be trained, so they lead anything but an idle existence.

OTAGO WITNESS, December 17, 1902

### **TRIALS OF AMBULANCE DOGS AT NETLEY**

The trials of the ambulance dogs trained by Major Richardson, of Panbride, Carnoustie, at Netley, a few days ago created much interest in canine and military circles, being the first trials of dogs with troops ever held in that country, although the same animals had previously worked at the Naval and Military Exhibition, Crystal Palace, and at the Glasgow Exhibition.

On the first day the trials were under the superintendence of Colonel Beatson, C.B., Central British Red Cross Committee, and a number of officers. The ground selected had never been seen by Major Richardson, or his dogs, and he was not informed of the number of the casualties placed for recovery by the dogs. A strong bearer company of

over 100 men were paraded and marched to the ground, a number being told off as casualties who were ordered to hide themselves as completely as possible in disused quarries covered with rank grass and dense scrub, about half a mile long.

The day was very hot, and bad for scent. Major Richardson was then instructed to put down his dogs and recover the casualties. The two dogs employed were a bitch, a cross between a red setter and collie and a collie of deer-tracking stock, both possessing excellent noses, and seeming of great intelligence.

Keeping the dogs well in hand, and preventing wide ranging, the collie-setter bitch Jessie soon marked a casualty in long grass, backed by the collie Carlo, which had been trained to bark on finding a wounded man. Working the dogs carefully up wind, they recovered 21 men, the number of casualties placed. The casualties did their best to evade the dogs, and remained absolutely motionless, not making the slightest noise, representing corpses rather than wounded.

GENEVA DAILY TIMES AND COURIER, February 7, 1905

## **ITALIAN DOGS OF WAR**

### **Scotch Collies Adopted as a Part of Italian Army to Retrieve Injured Soldiers**

It has been recently recorded that our friend, the Scotch collie, has been appearing in a striking, new Italian military role. A Milan paper recently appeared with an interesting account of the manner in which a little corps of collies has been added to the Italian army and turned into dogs of war. They are not used for fighting, but for retrieving wounded soldiers. Their trainer, Capt. Ciotola, has adopted the method employed with the St. Bernards. In the training process the captain employs his men to play the part of the wounded. These collies, however on finding a wounded soldier, are not trained to haul the man along with them, but they carry a small wallet of restoratives, to render first aid. After the wounded man has been refreshed the collies hurry off to give the signal to the scouts of the army, who then bring the wounded into the relief line.

One of the collies, Asta by name, coaxes and encourages the wounded man to accompany her, if he can; failing that, she dashes off and in a little while returns conveying the search party. Another, who is called Mars, on finding one of the wounded, takes to the nearest high ground and raises a howl to summon the ambulance men.

LOS ANGELES HERALD, February 26, 1905

### **DOGS OF WAR RED CROSS DOGS**

The five hundred collies which were sent to the scene of the Russo-Japanese war to be used by the Red Cross society were trained at Rome. This city boasts a dog college where, these aids to the injured are taught to do their, work. They are first trained to hunt up the wounded soldiers, and then to bark at the man until he has been aroused and can make use of the aid the dog has brought to him. In the pockets of a gray blanket, marked with a red' cross and strapped upon the dog's back, are two flasks, one of water, the other of stimulant, two flat biscuits, a small splint, a roll of bandages, a soft silk handkerchief and a probing instrument. When the soldier is too, seriously injured to help himself the collie is taught to send out a wail of distress to summon human help. In extreme cases the dog must rush to the hospital tent for a surgeon.

EVENING POST, February 6, 1915

### **USEFUL WAR DOGS SAVE MANY LIVES**

More than twenty lives have already been saved by a black collie dog belonging to an ambulance corps on the East Prussian battlefield. In peace times, the animal is a humble watchdog in the railway station at Halle (states a report from Berlin). The dark winter nights and the snow make the work of finding the wounded especially difficult, but since the ambulance parties began using dogs in their search few wounded men have been overlooked. The dogs carry a red cross on both sides of their collar. As soon as night comes, generally the only time in which the wounded can be searched for, the leashes are slipped and the dogs are sent across the battlefields. Instead of barking when they find a wounded soldier they bring back some article of the victim's equipment, as a cap, helmet, or glove. They are then put on the leash and they lead the ambulance men to the spot where the wounded soldier lies. In this manner hundreds have been saved on the different battlefields. At first some of the animals lead the searchers to men already dead, but they learn with surprising rapidity to confine their attentions to the living.

FEILDING STAR, April 7, 1917

### **DOGS RESCUE 8000 WOUNDED**

The value of ambulance dogs in war is shown by the fact that 8000 wounded German soldiers have been found by dogs searching in districts where the men would probably have been overlooked. A German society for training ambulance dogs was formed in the '90's, "*and*, - says the British Medical Journal, - *in 1914 the Prussian*



*Minister of the Interior sanctioned the. training of police dogs in ambulance work. At the beginning of the present war the society was able to provide the German army with 24 dogs and trainers. Their services seem to have been appreciated, for by December 1915 the number of ambulance dogs had been raised to 2,500."*

*Of these houses*

*nothing remains*

*but the rubble*

*of a ruined wall*

*Of the many*

*who were so close to me*

*nothing remains*

*not even that*

*But in my heart*

*not one cross is missing*

*This ravaged village*

*is my heart*

Giuseppe UNGARETTI, San Martino del Carso

