

The dogs came originally from Battersea Dogs' Home in London and, as demand grew, from the Bristol, Liverpool and Manchester dogs' homes. An official order was sent to Police forces to send stray dogs to the War Dog school and the general public was also asked to donate dogs they

were unable to keep properly because of food rationing.



*Rough Collie in gas mask*

Initially Edwin Richardson favoured Airedale Terriers though he considered Collies were ideal for certain conditions. Their long, double coats, despite becoming muddy and matted, helped them survive the cold and damp of the trenches, where they worked mainly at night carrying messages, or laying cables from bags strapped to their backs.

Collies were also used by the Red Cross as 'mercy dogs', for carrying medical supplies (in small panniers) and tracing wounded soldiers on the battlefields. They were also trained as sentries (to



*Sentry duty in the French trenches (1914-18).*

provide the soldiers with advance warning of approaching enemy patrols), messengers (for the delivery of vital despatches when telephone lines were down), ammunition and food carriers, scouts, sled dogs, draught dogs, guards, ambulance dogs, ratters, mascots and cigarette dogs (sponsored by the Y.M.C.A. to deliver cartons of cigarettes to the troops on the front line!)