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THE EMPLOYMENT OF WAR DOGS, WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO TRIPOLI AND OTHER RECENT CAMPAIGNS.

By MAJOR C. H. RICHARDSON, late Wilts and Derbyshire Regt.

On Wednesday, 30th October, 1912.

BRIG.-GENERAL R. C. B. HAKING, C.B., in the Chair.

IT was with great pleasure that I received the invitation of the Royal United Service Institution to speak on a subject which has been my especial study for close on 20 years. It might be of interest to you to know how I had my attention called to the subject. I had always been interested in the training of dogs for useful purposes, and when one morning years ago, when out shooting on a friend's moor in Scotland, I noticed a foreigner negotiating the purchase of a sheep dog from one of the shepherds, and making experiments therewith I at once made enquiry. I found that the man was an agent of a foreign government, sent over to buy suitable dogs for use in connection with their army.

From that time I commenced a systematic study of the training of dogs for use with our soldiers and police. In this lecture I shall only speak on the military dogs. It has always seemed strange to me that the extraordinary qualifications of the dog in this particular relation should have been so overlooked in this country.

The erect position of man and his dependence on his sense of sight has caused his hearing powers to deteriorate, while his olfactory organs, compared to those of the dog, are quite rudimentary, although certain primitive tribes, such as the Puongs of Cambodia, the Ainus of Japan, and the Aborigines of Peru, still possess the sense of scent, and can distinguish

in the thickest woods between the approach of one of their own race, a white man or a negro.

The position of the dog near to the ground, and the increased size of the tympanum of his ear, enable him to hear sounds unheard by civilized man; while his sense of scent, his intelligence and loyalty, his homing instinct, and his tireless watchfulness, are qualities which cannot be estimated too highly for service with the soldier.

HISTORICAL.

In searching into the past history of the world, we find that several great generals believed in canine aid. Cæsar used dogs to guard his camps, and Frederick the Great also caused his sentries to employ them. Napoleon wrote to Marmont on June 21st, 1799, "They ought to have with them at Alexandria a large number of dogs, which should be fastened a short distance from the walls." They were used in the Civil War of North and South America as sentries and for tracking work, and also in the Russo-Turkish War of 1878. During the Franco-German War they were used by individual people, and very often with great success, but it is only of recent years, owing greatly to the changing conditions of warfare, that the subject has received scientific attention.

The duties of the modern military dog can be divided into three sections:—

1. As a scout or sentry.
2. As an aid to the ambulance in looking for the wounded.
3. As a messenger and ammunition carrier.

I have mentioned these services in the order in which I consider they rank in value, and will speak on the sentry and scout dog first.

SCOUT DOGS.

The development of modern firearms will demand increased means for discovering the intentions of the enemy, as attacks are either carried out or the troops moved into position for them more or less in the darkness, the preparatory marching up of the troops for the attack or defence being carried on under cover of night. Here it is that the watchful and tireless sentry dog attached to the front line of outposts will find his chief value.

With the descent of darkness, which renders the human being so helpless, the hearing or scenting powers of the dog become most acute, and where the soldier may often have his senses dulled by fatigue after a long march or arduous campaign, or even where he may be misled by nervousness to hear sounds that exist only in his imagination, the dog will be found tirelessly wakeful and alert, and acutely sensitive to all scents

and sounds. He will hear or wind the stealthy approach of the patrols of the enemy long before the sentry is aware of there being anyone in the neighbourhood.

After hundreds of experiments I have proved that a dog can hear 200 to 400 yards further than a man, and where wind or atmosphere are especially favourable for scenting as well, detection will come at far greater distances.

At all suspicious noises he will show restlessness, and will make the sentries more watchful and keener in their observations. Not only is the sentry dog of use in front, but also for guarding communications in the rear, such as bridges, tunnels, and columns bringing up provisions. It is my firm opinion that the efficiency of scouts and sentries would be enormously increased were they provided with properly trained dogs, and the appalling results due to rushes and ambushes would be reduced to a minimum.

The least number a regiment should have, in order to be properly safeguarded, is 12 dogs, and where in time of war the service lies in very enclosed dangerous country, this number should be increased. When on the march, the advance and flank guards should have dogs, and at the bivouac these should be distributed among the sentries, while when troops are intrenched, the dogs can be placed on guard in the trenches or in front of the wire entanglements.

AMBULANCE DOGS.

To pass on to the ambulance dogs—another point that has been emphasized in recent warfare is the increasingly difficult conditions under which the collection of the wounded is carried on.

The Medical-Inspector Czernicki, of the French Army, wrote these lines: "On August 19th, 1870, I found in searching the battlefield of Rezonville, Gravelotte, two of the Lepasset Mixed Brigade who had fallen wounded on August 16th, that is three days previously—hidden at about a distance of 300 metres from each other in some excavations at the edge of the wood in the Gorze ravine. They had not seen a living person from the moment they fell, though the field had been overrun by the belligerents and searched by ambulance men."

During the Russo-Japanese War the battles sometimes lasted eight to ten days, and it was only possible to go to the relief of the wounded at night during the darkness, when there was perforce a lull in the firing. Even then the search had to be made without lights, as these drew the enemy's fire, and it is appalling to think of the sufferings of the unfortunate wounded men, driven by raking shell fire to take every possible cover, lying sometimes quite close to their would-be rescuers and quite unable to cry out while hearing the footsteps of the succouring party recede into the distance.

In Manchuria, Madame X, attached during the whole of the Russo-Japanese War to the Red Cross Service, expresses herself in the following terms: "Less fortunate were those who were rendered motionless by their wounds. For want of removal many died where they lay of hæmorrhage, exhaustion, and cold."

Major Matignon, of the French Army, attached to the Japanese, in a private letter to a friend says: "One morning about 10 o'clock I saw a wounded Russian arrive at the field hospital, No. 3 of the 5th Division, borne by two Japanese regimental ambulance men. The thermometer stood at this moment at 10 below zero. Interrogated by one of our interpreters, he informed us that he had just passed 36 hours on the field of battle. He had been found in a hollow roadway where he had fallen unconscious while endeavouring to gain the Russian first aid post. He had not been observed by the Russians at the moment of their retreat."

There were a few trained dogs which were presented to the Russian Red Cross from Germany and England.

Count Persidsky, of Count Keller's staff, writes: "In finding the missing and wounded, with which the millet fields are strewn, nothing succeeded like our pack of seven dogs. The English ones are especially intelligent. In our last engagement 23 men were found in unsuspected places."

The medical records of the South African War go to show the impossibility often of reaching the wounded until night time, and the difficulty of finding the men in the darkness, searchlights being impossible.

Dogs in this connection are of immense service, and the darkness and increased moisture in the air, and the smell of blood all makes their tracking work the easier.

They may not be so often called upon for this duty as for scouting or sentry work, but at times this will be equally important.

These should go out ahead or on long leads with the searchers and stretcher bearers, and they will be a great assistance in identifying the wounded.

MESSANGER AND AMMUNITION DOGS.

The third and last duty of the dog is as a messenger or ammunition carrier, and I have put this last as it is by far the most difficult for the dog to learn. Where his training as a scout or sentry is a question of merely cultivating and bringing to a high state of perfection those qualities which are more or less inherent in him; that of a messenger partakes more of the trick training, and where he will know his environment quite sufficiently to be efficient in his first two duties, he will require a much longer time to become proficient in this last one.

That dogs can do this is the case. A correspondent who was with the Boxer Expedition wrote of the dogs which accompanied the German artillery that it was always delightful and interesting to watch their movements. Upon one occasion where it became necessary to shell a Chinese patrol, the orders were brought by a dog five miles in a few minutes, and the dog was standing quietly by as the guns galloped up. For carrying ammunition to the firing line dogs would be extremely valuable as offering a smaller and more quickly moving target for the enemy's fire, but here again is required a very careful and technical training, which can only be done where the dog is actually among the soldiers, and thoroughly at home in his environment.

I should like to point out that it is quite a mistake to think that in time of war a number of dogs suitable for military service could be quickly obtained—nothing can be more emphatically denied. My own experience is that out of over 20 likely-looking specimens only one will turn out worth the training. I shall speak later of the use that has been made of dogs in recent campaigns, but I will here say that the successes have been with those which have been carefully trained in peace time, and the failures with those hurriedly collected at the last moment, and without training.

In selecting a suitable dog many things have got to be taken into consideration. Intelligence, acuteness of hearing and scenting are of first importance. Natural biddableness is also essential. Too heavily coated a dog is not advisable, as these feel the heat in hot climates, and are difficult to keep free from insects.

Where large numbers are required, the purchase money must not be high, and expensive breeds are useless. After years of experiments with every sort of breed, I have found that the Airedale proves about the best of all those we have in this country. He is faithful and intelligent, and possesses all the qualities of scenting and hearing required; his coat, while not too heavy, is sufficiently so to be weather resisting, and he is of a good size, as he is not big enough to be too easily fatigued, and yet he is tall enough for going through the long grass, etc. Furthermore, he is extremely hardy. Former inmates of my kennel are serving with troops or police in all parts of the world, and from both cold and tropical climates I hear good accounts of their health. There are few breeds of which this could be said. I frequently use various crosses, but the Airedale is the basis of my breed.

RECENT CAMPAIGNS.

I will now mention some recent campaigns where dogs have been and are being used at the present time.

In the war in Cuba, Captain Steel, of the American Cavalry, used a dog called "Don," and he asserted that it was owing

to this dog's service that no detachment with which it went was ever ambuscaded. He says: "Dogs are the only scouts that can secure a small detachment against ambuscade in these tropical jungles. The bush is so dense and the trails are so crooked and over such rough territory that the leading man at one or two hundred yards is out of sight of the main party. The insurgents lying in ambush often let the leading man pass by and open with a volley upon the wagons and main party of the escort."

This dog Don went through the entire campaign; lived for more than a month on scraps of bread and bacon, and during a day covered six times as much ground as any man of the column.

In the Russo-Japanese War the entire trans-Siberian railroad was guarded by dogs, and to their aid greatly may be ascribed the reason that it was never cut.

I have already mentioned the services rendered to the ambulance in this war, and I may add that the Japanese often used dogs as scouts on long leads.

In the German South-West African War the mistake was made of hurriedly collecting large numbers of dogs at the last minute, and sending them with the troops. These were, in most cases, without any training, and were selected by insufficiently experienced persons, so that many were quite unsuitable for the work and climate. Those which were properly trained and handled gave good results, and Sergeant Kranholt gives his experiences as follows:—

"At the outbreak of the disturbances in South-West Africa I was serving as sergeant of police at Eisleben. I was called up as a reservist and posted to the 1st Regiment of Field Force. By order of the War Office I took two dogs, one of which I had for police duty and another the present of the German Sheepdog Society." These, of course, would be highly-trained dogs. "After landing at Swakopmund, I was sent with the dogs immediately to the interior.

"In spite of the long journey, want of exercise, change of climate, long periods of want of water, the stony ground and sharp grass, my dogs were, with the exception of a few days, always fresh and ready for work, and always on the alert. The opposite happened with other breeds which were employed for service. The majority had the pads of their feet cut after the first few marches, and had to be put in luggage wagons. I handed over one to First-Lieutenant Bahr of the 10th Dragoons, whose duty it was to clear the country of straggling Herreros. This dog accompanied him in all his expeditions, and proved himself entirely reliable and useful, and was always in good health.

"As sentries the dogs did excellent work in occupied posts, at wells, cattle posts and such like, and prevented many surprises and stealing of cattle.

"It must be absolutely laid down that dogs' feet are absolutely hard, and that they are accustomed to work all day, otherwise they are useless."

Captain Hinsh, Headquarters Staff, reports his dogs are a great protection to the column to which he is attached. Lieutenant V. Doring, 19th Dragoons, in the same campaign, also stated his dogs have given excellent results on patrol, in action, and in camp and on the march.

ABOR CAMPAIGN.

It was owing to the initiative of a lady that a pair of dogs accompanied the force sent against the Abors last winter. Mrs. Alban Wilson, wife of Major Alban Wilson, of the 8th Gurkhas, obtained permission from the commanding officer and from the general commanding the expedition, to present two dogs, purchased from me, to her husband's regiment. "Bob" and "Jumbo" were late in getting out to India, and were only just in time to catch the regiment before it began its march, and they were therefore completely strange to climate and men, and had also had a most terribly trying voyage in the hottest season of the year. They settled to their work, however, and the correspondent with the expedition sent the following dispatch, which appeared in the London Press on November 11th, 1911:—

"Before the encounter of November 7th, one of the dogs accompanying the advanced guard gave timely warning of the presence of Abors. The dogs are also employed at night time, being used by the Gurkha sentries, who keep them on a chain to supplement their own vigilance."

On another occasion the dispatch sent was as follows:—

"The expedition has now reached Rotung, a gathering place of the Abors, which was found to have been burned. After marching unopposed to the limit of the made road, the striking force began the ascent of the rising ground beyond the Lelek river, through a thick bamboo forest.

"Information had been received to the effect that a stockade might be met with, and the Gurkha scouts, who were accompanied by Major Richardson's war dogs, were accordingly ordered to keep a sharp lookout. The dogs again proved their efficiency, as they gave warning to the outposts of the presence of the enemy's scouts before they were seen by the Naga coolies."

In a private letter written to me by Major Wilson, under whose supervision the dogs were on the march, he says: "My dogs never once failed to give notice of an enemy on the path, with the result that the advance guard or main body was never ambuscaded."

At the time these dogs were on their march through the Indian jungles, the Turco-Italian War broke out, and I went out to Tripoli to study the war from my particular point of view. I at once saw the immense advantage to be gained by having the trenches and outposts guarded by dogs against night attacks. Returning to Rome, I represented this at the War Office, and the idea was adopted, and large numbers of dogs were sent out. At the moment of writing there are over 500 dogs at the seat of the war. The Italian Army had no trained dogs except a few stationed in some of the forts, but fortunately they were able to obtain those belonging to the Customs House officers, which were kept to prevent smuggling on the Austrian frontiers. These were well trained, and were sent with their keepers, who thoroughly understood their handling, so that excellent service was rendered. These dogs were of the Ristone or Spinone breed, with a good deal of cross in them. They are of medium size of black or brown colour, and with silky hair, and are very intelligent and have excellent noses. They were used with the cavalry as scouts for tracking out hidden Arabs in the oasis, and as aids to the nocturnal guards and advanced outposts, 500 to 600 metres beyond the trenches, and by the barbed wire entanglements. The infantry also found them useful for finding hidden ammunition. So useful were they found to be that larger numbers were sent for, and as there were no further frontier dogs to be had a collection of those dogs used in other parts of Italy was made, namely, of the big shepherds' dogs from the Maremma. These are large powerful dogs, with shaggy coats. They are excellent guards and watches, but they are very fierce, and not nearly so well trained as the customs dogs; therefore, although these big fellows did good service in guarding the trenches, they were not nearly of the same use as were the other dogs, and could not be handled so easily. In fact, the point was strongly brought out, of the advantage of having men trained in peace time to understand the working of the dogs, as on this rests half the success. I have remarked that the Custom House officers went with their own dogs, and that there was perfect understanding between dogs and men, while the sheep dogs, hurriedly collected and without any special training, were among complete strangers, without sufficient understanding to know how to use them, and thus many were failures. The following is an account of the battle of Derna:—

“ In the early part of the evening of February 11th-12th, the Turks, under cover of darkness, advanced in two columns against the Italian position at Derna; one column of about 500 men to the right, the other consisting of about 1,000 Bedouins, with a stiffening of Turkish officers. The whole of the country is difficult in the extreme, without roads, and crossed by a series of tracks for the most part known to the natives only, running on the edges of precipices.

"This force took every advantage of the sinuosities of the ground, and practically crawled undisturbed to the Italian position. The alarm, however, was given by the dogs chained to the entanglements, and at 1.30 began an engagement at this point, which lasted the whole night."

The idea has hitherto received little support in this country, and it was therefore a gratification to me when a request came from the men of the Norfolk Regiment for one of my dogs. I had the greatest pleasure in presenting them with one which worked with them through the manœuvres this summer. I have the following report from the officer of the company, to which it was attached. -

"I beg to forward a report called for on the value of the dog presented to my Company by Major Richardson. The dog, an Airedale terrier, arrived just before Brigade Training. Major Richardson forwarded full instructions as to its care, feeding and training.

"On three occasions I had the opportunity of using the dog on outpost duties at night. Each time I found the presence of the dog to be of the greatest value. He either remained beside the sentry or went with a patrol. His value consists in the fact that he can and does detect the approach of human beings some considerable time before the eye or ear of the average man can distinguish anything. The result is that the sentry or patrol is fully on the alert, and it is impossible for them to be either ambushed or 'rushed.' The dog is no expense, as he feeds on the remains of the men's dinner. He is never allowed to run loose in camp or barracks, and no one is allowed to feed him except the man in charge of him.

"I am of opinion that it would be a very valuable asset to have four of these dogs attached to every infantry battalion for service in the field.

"I hope at next Company Training to make more extensive trials of his usefulness. I should add that his method of indicating the approach of anyone at night is quite silent. It consists of a low growl and a stiffening of his body, almost like a pointer."

MEASURES ADOPTED IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

To speak of the work that is going on in foreign countries. I have the recent reports from abroad. In France great attention is paid to the training of dogs for messenger and outpost service. They are used in this connection with the Chasseurs and Alpine Regiments, and are a great success out in Algeria and Tunis.

There is a training establishment at Fontainebleau, built by the French Government.

In Austria they are used on the Italian frontier and in Bosnia and Dalmatia. The Alpine Jaegers, Kaiser's Jaegers, the regiments in the Tyrol, and the Bosnia Herzegovina Infantry Regiments have large numbers of dogs among them. Airedales are used to a very great extent as well as the native mountain sheep dogs.

The results are excellent. There is a training school at Wels in Upper Austria, and also at Seraievo.

In Austria they also train large quantities of police dogs. In Germany they employ dogs in guarding the fortifications and frontiers, but a very important point is that the organization of police dogs in this country is very large and perfect, and a scheme exists for the mobilization of all these dogs for use with the army. Their training, which is brought to a very high state of perfection with the police, enables them to be good scouts and guards, and to be good trackers.

It may be of interest for me to mention some trials that were made with the 15th German Army Corps, of which I have a report. In the delivery of messages, dogs were frequently sent at day and night from outposts to headquarters—a distance of 1,000 to 1,200 paces, where they arrived on an average of two to three minutes.

The report says: "The advantage of sending messages in this way is obvious, when it is considered that the course the dogs took was over ground where it would have been impossible for the pedestrian to leave the footpath.

"In the case of trials with sentry dogs, various experiments were made at night. Persons were despatched with the order to try and steal past the sentries, but in spite of the greatest caution they observed in their movements, they did not in a single instance succeed, because the dogs gave warning as soon as the person approached within 150 to 200 paces of the line of sentinels.

"The same was the case with dogs sent out with patrols. It was noticed that the dog did not give notice of the approaching patrol if he belonged to a detachment that was known to him, but if by any chance a stranger was encountered, his approach was notified by the dog at once.

"In the case of ambuscades, in this same way it was found that the dog ignored the presence of soldiers of a troop known to him, passing them in an unconcerned manner, but immediately gave warning in the case of strangers."

Belgium.—In Belgium dogs are used as sentries with several of the regiments, including the carabineers; they are also used for dragging machine guns and for ambulance dogs.

In the event of war, the Belgians, who have a perfect system of war dogs, would supply the army from the police.

Holland.—The chief interest in Holland is in ambulance dogs, some of which I have supplied myself. The ambulance dogs are with the Grenadier regiments quartered at the Hague, and lately there has been a training school established under the presidency of the Prince Consort of the Netherlands at the Hague.

Sweden.—They have very good systems of dogs, both for sentry and ambulance work, and trials are held periodically at Stockholm.

Russia.—A number of regiments have dogs for sentry work. One regiment, the Hussars of the Imperial Guard, at Tzarskoe Selo (the camp outside St. Petersburg), has now 23 Airedales. They have also dogs for ambulance work, and the numbers are increasing daily.

Bulgaria.—Has a most excellent system of military dogs. The whole frontier is guarded by these dogs, and they are with the pickets and detached posts.

I hope that in the foregoing I have placed in a clear way the advantage to the Service of employing properly trained dogs. I do not wish to prove too much, as great harm can be done by expecting impossibilities, but this I *do say*, that for scouting and sentry work, and for searching for the wounded, the natural qualifications of the dog are such, that he is an invaluable auxiliary to the soldier, and in view of the fact that foreign armies are all likely to adopt this aid in time of war, we ourselves cannot afford not to do so also. The advantage of a scout or sentry provided with a keenly hearing and scouting dog over one without, is so obvious as to require no further comment.

That it would be found to be an absolute necessity to provide our troops with dogs at the eleventh hour, is, I am convinced, a certainty, and as I have already said, this hurried collection does not answer, and is a most wasteful and expensive method.

The only safe way is to provide regiments in peace time with properly selected dogs.

In this country we would have no customs or police dogs at all to fall back upon, and therefore the army would require to train its own dogs.

This could be done at a training establishment, and from there the dogs should be drafted to the various regiments. They could be used in peace time, as is done abroad, with the sentries in forts, aeroplane sheds, magazines, etc., and by their use reduce the number of sentries required.

At the conclusion of the lecture, a series of slides was shown illustrating the types of dogs used by various Continental armies, and their equipment; and two Airedales, trained by Major Richardson, were also shown.

DISCUSSION.

The Chairman (Brig.-General R. C. B. Haking, C.B.): I will open the discussion by asking Major Richardson one or two questions which have struck me during the reading of the lecture. It appears to me, purely from the military point of view, that is to say from the fighting dog point of view, that we require two things in the army in this kind of service of security. One is for stationary work with a sentry or moving work with a patrol, and the other is for work independently of the sentry, the dog working semi-independently of the actual soldier who is in charge of the dog. Major Richardson has explained to us what the dogs can do with a sentry, and there is no doubt about it, that would be extremely valuable in war—in fact, it has been proved to be extremely valuable in war. The only thing I have to suggest against it at all is that we must not allow our sentries to become careless. I think most of us have had experience in war of the sentry going to sleep. If the sentries in the future are always given a dog to work with them, there will always be the tendency for them to say, "Here is old Bob, he will give us plenty of warning; we can have a bit of a nap." The sentry goes to sleep, and he leaves it all to Bob. Bob may be all right and warn him in time, but if he does not, Bob may be a source of danger instead of an advantage. We shall have to be very careful about that, but otherwise I have no criticism to make as regards the employment of dogs for sentry work.

I was very much interested in what Major Richardson said about the Abor Expedition, because I was myself in the Burma war many years ago, and there the dogs would have been of great assistance to us. We had to operate in thick jungles, in which the enemy tried to ambuscade us, and dogs would have been valuable for that sort of work.

INDEPENDENT WORKING OF DOGS.

The other point on which I wish to touch is the semi-independent working of dogs. It appears to me that from a military point of view they would be even more useful to us in that respect than a dog tied to a sentry. For example, infantry move very slowly, and they have to expend a great deal of energy in getting from one place to another. In war we want everything to go quickly, and we do not want to expend more energy than we need, so that when the big fight comes along we will have as many men as possible to take part in it. An outpost or an advance guard working in front or on the flank wants to know whether the enemy are ahead. If you have plenty of cavalry you can find out whether they are there or not, but very often infantry have to work without cavalry. Cavalry get collected in one place or they get drawn away in another direction, and the infantry have to do a great deal of scouting work themselves. What I want to ask the Lecturer more than anything else is whether it would not be possible to train dogs who would be able to go to a particular locality, say a wood to the right, and if they meet an enemy give some sign or signal or bark, or come back again. If they could be trained to do that they would be absolutely invaluable.

The Lecturer: Yes, I think it could be done, but it is extremely difficult.

The Chairman: You always find that the thing you want most is the most difficult thing to do. But if dogs could do that they would be invaluable.

The Lecturer: Yes; but in dealing with dogs one has to avoid over-stating one's case. These things are *possible*, but one must not expect too much.

The Chairman: With regard to the breed of the dogs, I am not an Irishman, but I am very fond of Ireland, and I am particularly fond of its dogs. I should, therefore, like to ask Major Richardson if he has tried Irish terriers—are they any good?

The Lecturer: Yes, they are very good, but they are more excitable than Airedales. Then one can get Airedales almost absolutely mute. I have Airedales that never bark at all, and a most important point is that you want to eliminate all the barking. An Irish terrier is a magnificent watch, but he is rather apt to open.

Captain A. C. Temperley, The Norfolk Regiment, said he was the officer who received the dog from Major Richardson at Aldershot—a fact referred to in the paper. He received an application from his company saying they wanted a war dog. He had misgivings about it, because his experience was that dogs in barracks often developed into barrack dogs; they became scavengers and were apt to deteriorate. But as the men were so keen about it he wrote to Major Richardson, and much to his surprise and pleasure Major Richardson wrote back offering to present to the company a fully-trained dog—and a very fine specimen of an Airedale terrier it was, too. The G.O.C. 1st Division had called for a report upon this dog at the conclusion of the army manœuvres, and Major Richardson had read them this report. He could not speak too highly of the dog. He had tested it many times, the last occasion being the last night of the army manœuvres. The 1st Division was encamped not very far from the Blue Army, and his company was on outpost duty. The dog remained with the advanced sentries the whole night; they were on a public road, and the enemy were not very far away. He found that the dog invariably let the sentry know of the approach of a human being two or three minutes before the sentry could tell that there was anybody about. That he considered of the greatest value, because it meant that no sentry and no picket could ever be surprised as long as there was a dog there. When they remembered all the regrettable incidents in the South African War due to surprises at night, he thought that infantry officers in particular would feel very much greater confidence if they had dogs in the picket line. The misgivings that he had felt at the beginning were, he found, quite falsified, because he was lucky enough to spot the right man to look after the dog. The dog had not lost his keenness, and the men of the company took care that nobody else fed the dog but the owner.

There was one other thing he wished to say which Major Richardson had already emphasized, and that was the fact that in this—as in other matters—they ought not to trust to luck in a future war to muddle through as they had always done. They ought to get a definite policy about these dogs beforehand, and organize; and then when war did come—and it might come suddenly—they would have these dogs ready instead of trying to improvise them at the last moment. That, he believed,

would be the foundation of success with these dogs, that they should have some adequate resources to call on instead of trying to improvise them at the last minute.

Major-General J. B. Richardson: Major Richardson has a small belief in the use of dogs as messengers. I should like to ask Major Richardson whether he has been at "Gib" at all.

The Lecturer said that he had not.

Major-General Richardson: There are dogs there that would interest you immensely; dogs that are used for the smuggling that goes on through the lines between "Gib" and Spain. They put a large net right across, and every night the sand in front of this net is smoothed with a board notched in a particular way so that they see exactly what crosses; the two open ends are guarded by men. Nearly every day about 150 to 200 dogs laden with tobacco are sent from the neutral ground, and have to get through. As many as 40 or 50 dogs have been shot in a day in the attempt, so that the survivors get accustomed to shooting.

The Lecturer: That is a fixed position; it is the same position every day. But in war a regiment is always on the move, whereas at Gibraltar the dog is always going in the same direction.

Major-General Richardson: These dogs go both ways.

The Lecturer: Yes, but those two directions are fixed.

Major-General Richardson: That may be; but what I want to point out is that when they are turned loose these dogs do not go at once for any openings there may be. They hide themselves in little pits in the sand; I have often come across them lying flat, with their four pounds or more of tobacco strapped on to them. There are certain dogs that have been doing that for three or four years in spite of the shooting, so that you see how clever they get. They must often have been shot at. I asked one man how often he smuggled, and he said about two or three days a week, but it was very expensive smuggling, because they had to pay the guards a fixed sum to let them smuggle between certain hours—and thus let the dogs through. Some of the dogs swim a little way round the flanks. I said to one man, "Is your dog a very valuable dog? Does he always come home?" He told me that that dog had been at it for between two or three years, and that he would not take anything for him. I said "What! Not a hundred dollars?" He said "Why, he would make that in a month." So that that dog must have been going daily through the lines, avoiding people who were on the look-out for him. It was a surprising thing to me that they have never employed trained dogs against them. The guards trust to shooting. Some dogs get through on most nights, but sometimes have to wait for two days. A dog will not go until he is quite certain he can get through, so this man told me, and then they generally come home. These tobacco guards lie out on the sands in Spain for the purpose of shooting the dogs, and the dog has to get through that line of watchmen also. He does so; his intelligence leads him in the proper direction, and he eventually gets home to his master's house five or six miles away.

The Lecturer: There again he has a fixed point—his master's house.

Major-General Richardson: That is quite true, but the point I was trying to make is that these dogs get to stand the shooting. Forty or fifty of them are killed at a time, mostly young ones, but some manage to get trained.

There is one other point that I should like to mention. All over this country we have St. John Ambulance and Red Cross Detachments, and I do not see why each of these detachments should not be requested to keep a dog and train it. If that system was adopted we should have a number of trained dogs in case of war.

The Lecturer: Yes, that I think would be a very good idea, if they would have a dog attached to each detachment. I am exceedingly obliged to you for the suggestion.

Mr. E. Kilburn Scott said he was specially interested in what the Lecturer said about the Siberian railway being guarded by dogs during the Russo-Japanese War. There must have been some thousands of them on that line if they were so close together as 200 yards. Siberian bred dogs should be particularly good for the purpose mentioned, because of their acute sense of smell and quickness in hearing, and, like all natural breeds, the arctic dogs had prick ears. He admired the Airedale very much indeed, and if he kept a British breed should be inclined to the Yorkshire one, but he thought they could not be as alert because of their pendant ears. With regard to the white dogs of the Maremma which have been so successful in the Tripoli campaign, he wished to ask Major Richardson whether it would not be an advantage always to use white dogs for ambulance work. On a darkish night one would see such dogs so much more easily. Of course, for sentry work, dogs of a colour such as that of the Airedale would be best. There was an advantage in having a white dog for climatic regions. He had found by experience in connection with Arctic breeds that they stood the very hottest weather equally as well as the very coldest, if only they were white. He knew a dog from one of the Antarctic expeditions which was chained up in the open in an Australian Zoo for years. It had perfect health the whole time, although its only protection from the weather was a piece of corrugated iron. That was a Samoyede Siberian dog. Apparently the white furry coat had the same effect upon the dog as the wearing of white clothes by people in the summer.

For military purposes the barking of the dogs was, of course, a very important matter. The wolf did not bark; it knew better. By instinct it knew it must not give itself away by barking. Dogs which were near akin to the wolf only barked a little. The dogs in which he was particularly interested seldom barked. They could bark if necessary, but they had not the yap-yap habit, which apparently came from too much civilization. The Lecturer had made a very true remark about the Irish terrier. Dogs had nerves just the same as humans, and some breeds were much more nervous—neurotic, he would call it—than others. Perhaps the reason that the Airedale was so good was because, like the Yorkshireman, he was a mixture of breeds; certainly the inbreeding to obtain small size and perfection of coat, which had been going on in some breeds, seemed to have spoilt their tempers. Regarding the bloodhound, he could quite see it would be a failure, for war purposes, because of its weight and pendant ears. He attached great importance to the ears being elevated, and the drums thus able to catch the faintest sound waves.