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# FM 20-20

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY FIELD MANUAL

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**RESCINDED**  
**FOR HISTORICAL USE ONLY**  
**MILITARY**

**DOG TRAINING**  
**AND**  
**EMPLOYMENT**



HEADQUARTERS, DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
APRIL 1960

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 No. 20-20 }

HEADQUARTERS,  
 DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
 WASHINGTON 25, D. C., 28 April 1960

## MILITARY DOG TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT

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# CHAPTER 1

## GENERAL

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### 1. Purpose and Scope

This manual is a guide for training dogs for scout and sentry duty with the United States Army. It includes instructions on selecting, training, and caring for dogs and describes the qualities needed by dog handlers.

### 2. The Dog Handler

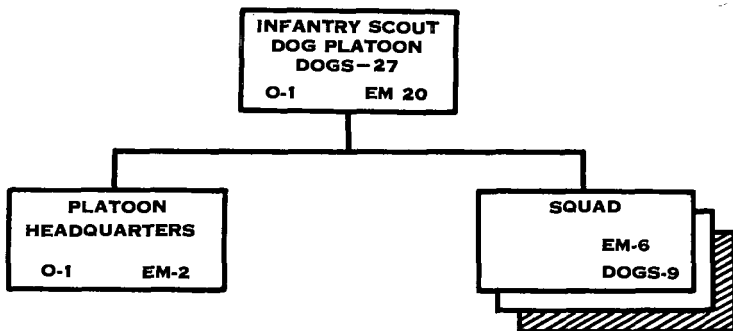
To effectively train military dogs, a handler must know more than just the principles of dog training. The effective handler is one who—

- a.* Has a sound understanding of the way a dog's mind works.
- b.* Is able, through a knowledge of grooming, feeding, kenneling, and first aid, to keep a dog in the physical condition required for performance with maximum efficiency.
- c.* Can properly employ the military dog to accomplish assigned missions.

### 3. Assignment and Attachment of the Scout Dog Platoon

*a.* As organized, the infantry scout dog platoon (fig. 1) must be attached or assigned to a larger unit for mess, supply, and administrative support. The platoon is generally assigned to an army and is further attached to a division. Elements of the platoon or individual handlers and their dogs may be attached to lower echelons, including frontline battle groups and companies, for specific missions or periods.

*b.* Sentry dog handlers and teams are authorized by TOE augmentation or by TD. The size of sentry dog units will vary, depending upon the size of the area to be protected and the vulnerability and sensitivity of the activity to be protected.



**PERSONNEL**

PLATOON CMDR  
PLATOON SERGEANT  
VETERINARY ANIMAL SPECIALIST

**PERSONNEL**

SQUAD LEADER  
ASSISTANT SQUAD LEADER  
SCOUT DRIVER  
SENIOR SCOUT OBSERVER  
SCOUT OBSERVER (2)



NOT INCLUDED IN REDUCED  
STRENGTH PLATOON

*Figure 1. Organization of scout dog platoon.*

## CHAPTER 2

### TRAITS AND CARE OF MILITARY DOGS

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#### Section I. DOG BREED AND CHARACTERISTICS

#### 4. General

The dog's world differs from that of humans in some very specific ways. His world is mostly one of odors. His nose tells him countless things about his environment which entirely escape humans. He is more sensitive to sounds than humans. His visual sensitivity to the movement of objects is superior to that of humans. The dog's senses which concern the trainer chiefly are, in the sequence of their probable importance, smell, hearing, vision, and touch.

#### 5. Breed

*a.* The German Shepherd is the only breed acceptable for training as military scout and sentry dogs.

*b.* The German Shepherd is a working dog of wolflike appearance, with a medium-size, muscular body. He has a double coat to protect him in all kinds of weather; a harsh, straight outer coat of medium length, and a dense, wooly undercoat. His color may range from black to white, but the most characteristic color is wolf-gray. For military uses, his coat should be on the dark side.

*c.* The special traits that make the German Shepherd so desirable as a military dog are his outstandingly keen nose, endurance, reliability, speed, power, courage, and temperament.

#### 6. Senses

##### *a. Smell.*

- (1) Dogs so far surpass man in keenness of smell that it is difficult to imagine the nature of the smell sensations they receive. Just as it is probably impossible for a dog to imagine what colors are, so it is impossible for man to conceive of the vast range of odors and delicate differences in chemical shading to which a dog is so sensitive. The dog's nose is ideally adapted for the detection of minute amounts of odorous particles. It is kept moist by a glandular secretion and is extremely sensitive to slight currents of air. On feeling such a current, a dog turns

his head into the wind, clears his nostrils, and sniffs. A generous sample of the air passes into the nasal cavity and over the mucous membrane which is richly supplied with the finely subdivided endings of the olfactory nerves. This mucous membrane is supported on a complexly convoluted bony structure. Its structure is such as to present a maximum surface with a minimum obstruction to the circulation of air. By comparison, the human olfactory apparatus is crude, yet even the human nose can detect chemicals borne by the air in such minute quantity that they cannot be identified by the most sensitive chemical tests. In general, studies show that dogs can respond to odor traces of all known sorts and in dilutions far more extreme than can be detected by man. Furthermore, they can distinguish many odors which seem identical to human beings.

- (2) A dog's trailing ability depends upon certain traits in addition to his sense of smell. Almost any German Shepherd has a good enough sense of smell to become a good trailer, but it is only the exceptional dog that can be trained to follow slowly and carefully any trail his master sets him on, regardless of any diversion or olfactory ruse he may encounter. Any Shepherd can trail a rabbit or a woodchuck. Only a few will, on command, follow the trail of a stranger leading through traffic, under snow, near a kennel full of dogs, or past a woodchuck hole.
- (3) Tests indicate that a dog's success in trailing depends primarily upon his accurate discrimination of—
  - (a) Earth odor from the compression of those spots stepped on by his quarry.
  - (b) Plant odor from the vegetation bruised or broken by his quarry.
  - (c) Odor traces from shoes and shoe polish.
  - (d) Odor traces from decaying animal or other organic matter.
  - (e) Body odor specific to any particular person.
- (4) Visual cues are of slight assistance to him.

*b. Hearing.*

- (1) Tests have been conducted to prove that a dog hears sounds too faint to affect human ears. Also, the dog hears sounds of higher pitch than can a human.
- (2) In using a dog's sense of hearing to assist in his training, you will find that voice inflection as well as the sound of the actual words affects his understanding of oral com-

mands. Some dogs appear to understand most accurately the feeling and wishes of the handler as they are conveyed by his voice. A word spoken in an encouraging tone will elate these dogs; a cross word will depress them. If it is intended to use a dog at night or under any circumstances where he cannot see his handler, it is important to train him to respond to a number of oral commands. Some dogs cannot be reached through their sense of hearing. They are not considered suitable for military training.

c. *Vision.* A most striking difference between the retina of a dog's eye and that of a human is that the dog's retina lacks a fovea centralis, which is a small rodless area of the retina that affords acute vision. When a man focuses his eyes upon any object, the light reflected from that object is thrown upon the fovea centralis. He can see many other objects besides that one, but he sees them indistinctly. This can be tested readily enough by focusing the eyes upon any word on this printed page and then trying to see how many other words can be read without moving the eyes. The words reflected upon the nonfoveal portions of the retina are blurred and poorly defined. Since a dog lacks a fovea centralis, one may expect that even an object upon which he focuses is seen less clearly than it would be by humans.

- (1) *Perception of movement.* This is a type of visual stimulation to which dogs seem very sensitive. If an object is moved ever so slightly, most dogs will detect and respond to the movement. Dogs make little use of their eyes in learning except for their perception of movement.
- (2) *Color vision.* Experimental evidence supports the opinion that to dogs the world looks like a black and white photograph.

d. *Touch.* There is a wide variation among dogs in their responsiveness to the sense of touch. Certain dogs are very susceptible to manual caress or correction. Others appear to be relatively insensitive to it.

## 7. Aggressiveness

The degree of aggressiveness in a military dog is judged almost solely by his disposition to attack. In general, a dog which is rated underaggressive cannot be taught to attack. A dog of average aggressiveness can be taught to attack, though less readily, than an animal rated as overaggressive. The only difficulty with an overly aggressive dog is getting him to stop an attack promptly on command.



## 8. Sensitivity

The term "sensitivity" refers to the type and degree of response a dog shows to certain stimuli (sound and touch). An oversensitive dog is startled by stimuli of lower intensity than is required to disturb the average dog. He often responds to weak stimuli by trembling and cowering or fleeing. A normal dog might react to the same stimuli with a mere turn of his head.

*a. Oversensitive Dog.* A dog that is oversensitive (shy) is so handicapped that it is not likely to demonstrate what intelligence it possesses in a form which the trainer can utilize. A dog that is shy to either sound or touch is difficult to train and is unreliable. A dog that shows a mild degree of gun shyness can sometimes be accustomed to gunfire through repeated exposure to it, but he cannot always be depended on where reliability in the face of noise is a matter of life or death. In general, an oversensitive animal can be trained only with difficulty, if at all, and it cannot be trusted implicitly.

*b. Undersensitive Dog.* A dog that is undersensitive to both sound and touch is also very difficult to train. A handler cannot "reach" him readily to give either correction or caress. A dog that is sensitive to either sound or touch, but not to both, can be instructed readily enough by a handler who discovers the right approach. The handler must employ his voice in one case and his hands in another.

*c. Ideal Sensitivity.* The ideal dog from the standpoint of sensitivity (that is, ideal in the hands of a good handler) is somewhat sensitive to both sound and touch. Such a dog tends to do either very well or rather poorly, depending on the wisdom used in handling him. A mediocre handler may spoil him.

*d. Importance of Handler.* Certain men are unable to appeal to a dog successfully through his ear because they do not have the proper voice range and timbre, but they may have a certain finesse in muscular control that enables them to obtain excellent results in handling the dog manually. The opposite is also true. In general, each handler succeeds best with a certain type dog and each dog with a certain type handler. To gain maximum effectiveness, the qualifications of the man must be matched with the sensory peculiarities of the dog.

## 9. Intelligence

*a.* Generally, intelligence is the trait most closely related to a dog's success in military training and service. In intelligence, the dog is far inferior to man, but probably superior to any other

animal below the primates. A dog can be taught to respond appropriately to an extremely large number of spoken words. No one knows the limit of his vocabulary. Under ordinary working conditions, only about 20 words are needed, but some dogs have been known to master responses to well over 100 oral commands.

b. A dog's rating for intelligence is based on the readiness with which he learns and the extent to which he retains and uses what he has learned. Intelligence is not related to the ease with which a trainer gets a dog to conform to his commands. Certain dogs learn very readily, when they want to, but are instructed with great difficulty because they have a tendency to sulk or become stubborn in obeying commands. A dog is rated high in intelligence if he is capable of profiting by experience, regardless of whether this is to the full satisfaction of the handler.

c. Some highly intelligent dogs are successful only when working with a man who pleases them. Under others they are unwilling and give the appearance of being stupid.

## 10. Willingness

This term is an arbitrary one used to refer to a dog's reaction to the commands of his handler. It applies not only to the way he responds to a command or to an act that he has already learned, but also to his cheerfulness and acceptance in learning new duties.

a. *Willing Dog.* A dog is ranked high in willingness if he persistently responds to his master's commands with an effort to carry them out, even though reward or correction is not immediate. Whether the dog possesses the necessary intelligence or physical strength, and whether he succeeds or fails, are not considered.

b. *Unwilling Dog.* If the promise of reward and the threat of punishment must constantly be before a dog to make him work properly, he is considered an unwilling worker. Many unwilling dogs appear to make a nice distinction between work and play. They will take great pleasure in retrieving, jumping, or searching for objects. Such dogs, after responding only stubbornly during a training period, will at times go to their handlers and apparently suggest a romp which may include any of the acts mentioned. They will then respond, promptly and appropriately, to commands to retrieve, search, jump, trail, etc. If, however, the situation is reversed and the handler initiates the play activity, these dogs may not, in this case, respond promptly or appropriately.

### c. *Basic Considerations.*

- (1) *Relation to handler.* A few dogs will work willingly for only certain people, often for only a single individual. Most dogs show unwillingness when commanded by a

stranger. Some have proved to be stubborn regardless of who trains and handles them. It is evident that the best results are obtained when a dog and man are carefully matched. A dog's rating for unwillingness should be only in relation to his handler. A dog should be penalized in his rating on this trait if he readily shifts his "willingness" to another man; for example, to a stranger or prisoner.

- (2) *Variations in willingness.* Willingness can be enhanced or inhibited by the man who handles a dog. Improper handling may make a dog less willing at one time than at another. Some dogs will work willingly during the first 5 minutes of a training period but, perhaps because of impatience shown by the handler, the dog will show unwillingness during the remainder of the period. Other dogs, however, just naturally seem to become unwilling after a few minutes. They should be rated relatively low in this trait.
- (3) *Confusion with undersensitivity.* Undersensitivity may be confused with stubbornness. Certainly, a dog that is undersensitive to both sound and touch may appear to behave unwillingly when, as a matter of fact, the commands supplied by the handler are less effective merely because of the limitations of the dog's sensory system.
- (4) *Confusion with intelligence.* When in doubt as to whether a dog's refusal to perform learned tasks is due to stubbornness or forgetfulness, the dog should be confined to the kennels for a few days. If he is merely stubborn, he will then gladly run through his exercises for the privilege of being at large.

## 11. Energy

This term refers to the degree of spontaneous activity of the dog; that is, the speed and extent of his movements in general, not in response to any command. Dogs differ greatly in this respect and it is easier to rate their comparative energy than their other traits. Above-average energy is desirable in a military dog because it indicates good stamina.

## Section II. SHIPMENT AND RECEPTION OF MILITARY DOGS

### 12. Shipment

All prospective military dogs are shipped by express at Government expense in individual shipping crates (fig. 2) provided by

the Government. These crates are marked with shipping tags which carry the following information: the name of the dog, name of the shipper, and the dog's destination. The shipper must get a health certificate for the dog from a licensed veterinarian within 24 hours before shipment. State laws govern the manner in which the certificate will be forwarded to the dog's destination. In all cases where a dog is shipped overseas, a health certificate must accompany the animal.

### 13. Reception and Recording Procedure

*a.* When a dog is taken from his shipping crate he is immediately equipped with a leather collar. After being exercised on leash and permitted to evacuate, he is put in quarantine for 21 days under the supervision of the veterinarian. The veterinarian sees that he is fed, watered, and left alone long enough for him to recover from his journey and become accustomed to his surroundings.

*b.* During the two-week period following the dog's arrival the following will be accomplished:

- (1) Physical examination.
- (2) Test for gun shyness.
- (3) Test for man shyness.
- (4) Test for aggressiveness.
- (5) Test for ability to ride in wheeled vehicle without ill effects.
- (6) Branding (tattooing) of accepted dog.
- (7) Return shipment of rejected dog.

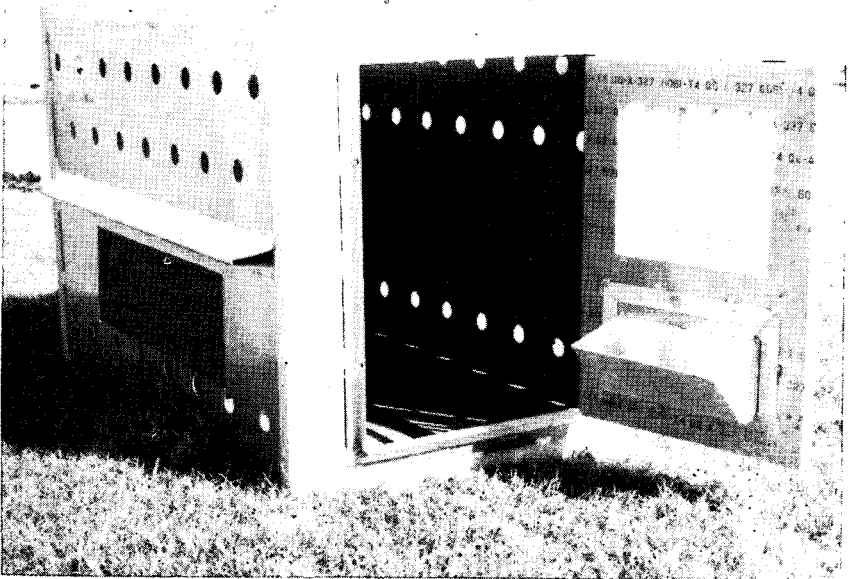
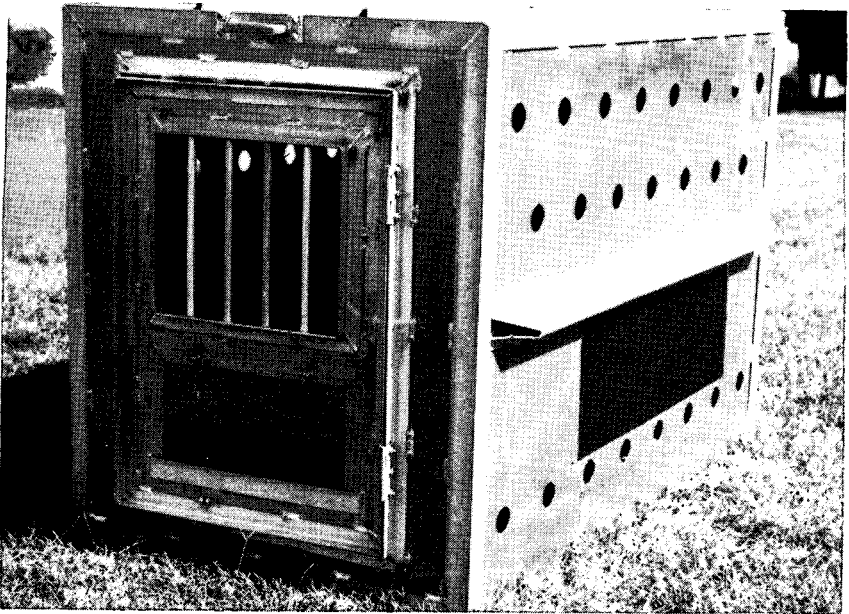
### 14. Physical Examination

A newly arrived dog is given a while to rest, then he is taken to the veterinarian where he is given a thorough physical examination, including X-rays to determine whether he has a coxofemoral pathology (disease or abnormal condition of the hip and thigh region). A dog that does not pass the physical examination is declared unfit for military service and is returned to his owner.

### 15. Testing and Accustoming the Dog to Gunfire

*a.* A dog may be considered accustomed to gunfire when a small caliber weapon can be fired directly above him without causing him to flinch. Some dogs can never be trained to be steady under gunfire. Such dogs should be considered unfit for military training.

*b.* A dog can be accustomed to gunfire by discharging small caliber weapons or exploding firecrackers from a distance, gradu-



*Figure 2. Individual shipping crate.*

ally decreasing the distance and firing progressively heavier caliber weapons. It is best to start this training when the dog is engaged in some activity which absorbs his attention, such as eating, or during training periods. This will help him become subconsciously accustomed to this type of noise. It has been found that the most successful procedure in accustoming a dog to gunfire is to have the shooting done as casually and intermittently as possible. When the dog shows alarm, no attempt should be made to force him to sit quietly while firing is repeated. It is better to discontinue firing for the time being and resume when the dog has forgotten his alarm.

## **16. Test for Man-Shyness**

If a dog trembles, whimpers, or is cowed at the approach of a man, he is considered unfit for military service. The time and effort required to break a dog of man-shyness is considered too great to warrant retraining him.

## **17. Test for Aggressiveness**

The test for aggressiveness amounts simply to finding out if a dog responds appropriately to mild agitation. To do this, someone approaches the dog and strikes him with a rolled gunny sack or other harmless device. The dog should respond by growling, barking, or attempting to bite his tormentor. A dog that is frightened by the agitator is considered unfit for military service.

## **18. Test for Ability to Ride in Vehicle**

a. A dog may be considered carbroken when he enters a motor vehicle on command, stays quietly within, and makes no attempt to get out unless ordered to do so (fig. 3). A dog that cannot become accustomed to riding in motor vehicles should be considered unfit for military service.

- b. (1) The commands UP and STAY are used to train a dog to enter a vehicle and remain there. Upon noticing the first symptoms of car sickness (a profuse flow of saliva and drooling from lips and tongue, followed by gagging), the instructor has the speed of the vehicle decreased and observes whether the symptoms continue. If the dog shows improvement, speed can be gradually resumed. This procedure is repeated until the dog becomes accustomed to the motion of the vehicle.
- (2) If drooling continues when speed is diminished, the vehicle is stopped and allowed to remain stationary until the dog's behavior is normal. The tendency to be sick can



*Figure 3. Carbroken dogs riding in correct position.*

sometimes be checked by the handler speaking to the dog. The vehicle can then be put into motion again, and this procedure repeated as necessary.

- (3) If symptoms of car sickness persist after following the procedures in (1) and (2) above, try breaking the dog to riding when his stomach is empty.
- c. (1) In subsequent exercises, the length of the rides must be progressively increased: 5 minutes the first day, 10 minutes the second, and so on until the dog shows no evidence of car sickness, no matter how far he travels. The speed of the vehicle should also be varied.
- (2) When the dog can ride as shown in figure 3 without becoming car sick, place him in a shipping crate, load crate and dog on the vehicle, and train the dog to ride this way by the procedure prescribed in *b* above.

## 19. Tattooing Procedure

a. After the dog has been accepted and is purchased, he is tattooed with a Preston brand number on the inside of the left rear leg.

b. Using the Preston branding system, it is possible to tattoo 4,000 animals with each letter assigned, in the following manner: if the letter "A" is to be used, the first animal tattooed will receive the tattoo "A000," the second "A001," the third "A002," and so on up to "A999," which makes the first thousand. The second thousand will be tattooed "0A00," "0A01," "0A02," and so on up to "9A99." The third thousand will be tattooed "00A0," "00A1," "00A2," and so on up to "99A9." The fourth thousand will be tattooed "000A," "001A," "002A," and so on up to "999A."

c. Preston brand numbers are assigned by the Office of the Quartermaster General.

## 20. Rejected Dogs

Dogs that are rejected for military service within 21 days after they arrive are returned to their owners at Government expense. Dogs that are not rejected during this period are paid for. If they are rejected later, for any reason, they are disposed of through the quartermaster property disposal officer.

### Section III. KENNELING

## 21. Types of Kennels

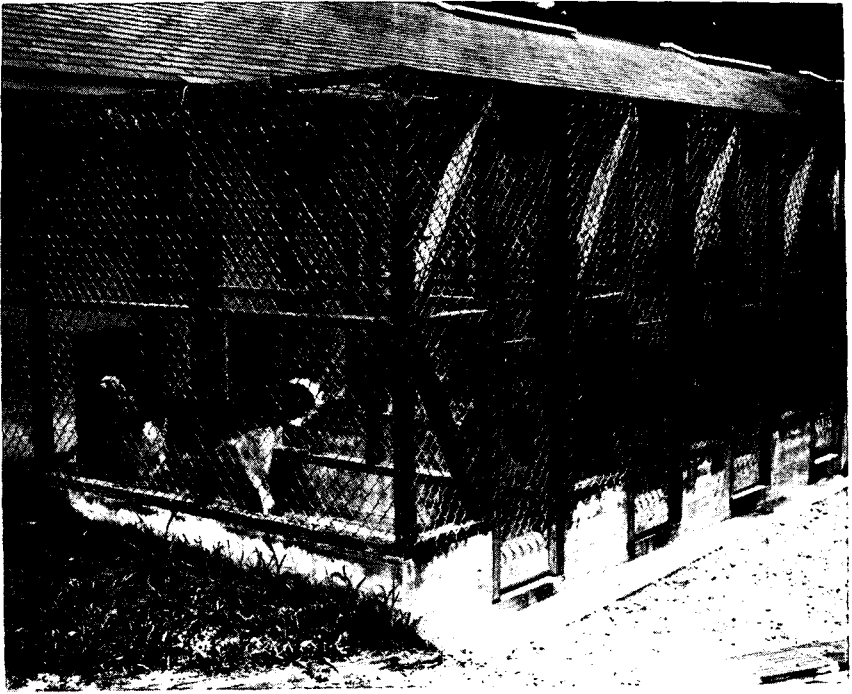
a. *Multiple.* Multiple kennels (fig. 4) are used at permanent installations, such as reception and training centers. They may be used for housing and isolating newly received dogs.

b. *Single.* Single kennels (fig. 5) are used during training in the field and at fixed installations. A single kennel usually has a hinged top that can be raised to various heights, ranging from a few inches for ventilation to a fully opened position for cleaning. It may also have a detachable section to serve as a sunning and grooming bench, provide shade, or furnish protection in wet weather.

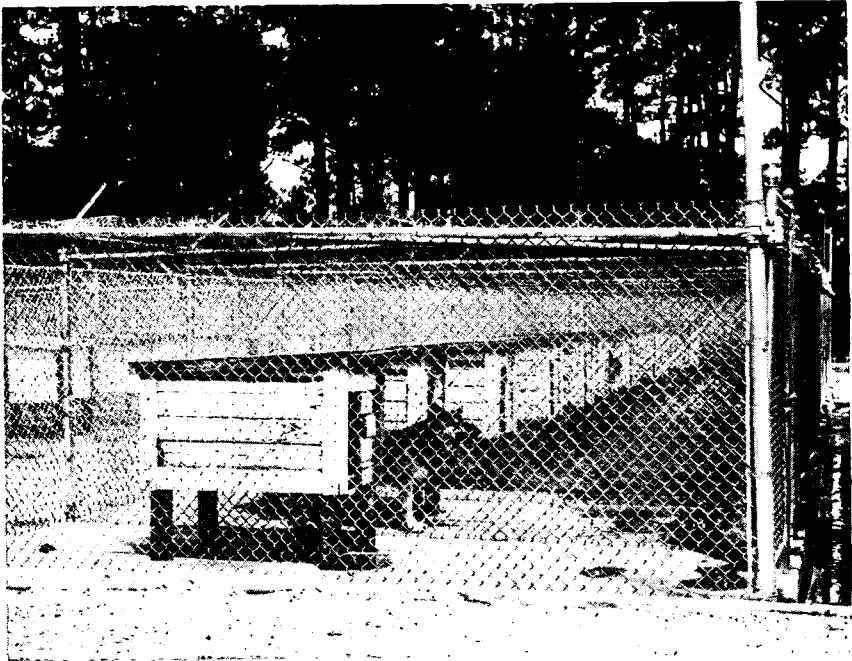
c. *Field Kenneling.*

(1) *Kennel-type crate.* During wartime or other large-scale dog mobilization periods, a wide variety of crates may be utilized, particularly for shipping dogs to training centers from volunteer donors. A crate, regardless of type, should not be destroyed by the receiving agency. It may be necessary to use it for further transport or for housing. The kennel-type crate (fig. 6) is normally used for shipping a dog to a using agency in an overseas theater, but it is





*Figure 4. Multiple kennel.*



*Figure 5. Single kennels.*

also designed to provide adequate temporary kenneling in the field.

- (2) *Improvised kennel.* Adequate kenneling in the field often depends on the ingenuity of the handler. Palm leaves or fir branches can be used to construct a crude protection from sunlight and rain. In a damp climate, a dog bed should be raised 6 to 10 inches above the ground. An empty barrel makes an excellent kennel with an entrance cut in one end and covered with a blanket, burlap sacking, or some other available material. If desired, a porch with a slanting roof may be added to provide further protection. The barrel is placed so that the bung hole is on top and the hole is covered with a perforated housing to provide ventilation even in inclement weather.

**Caution:** The dog must not share the quarters of the handler. It is human nature to make a pet of a dog, but this will lead to the dog becoming familiar with too many individuals and jeopardize the discipline that is developed through training.

## 22. Kennel Arrangement and Identification

a. Kennels should be located in a well drained area that is readily accessible to handlers and firefighting equipment and far enough from heavy-traffic roads and areas of human activity and other distractions to permit dogs a normal amount of rest.

b. Grass matting, salvage tenting, tarpaulin, or other material should be stretched over the inclosures around the runs to provide shade during hot weather.

c. To help prevent the dogs from disturbing one another, individual kennels should not be placed face-to-face. They should be so placed so that they receive the maximum benefit from sunlight and other climatic conditions.

d. Sections of the kennel area and individual kennels should be marked for identification. A kennel, for example, may bear the following identification: "Section A, Kennel No. 8."

e. A kennel plan should be maintained to provide quick reference to each dog's location, sick dogs, and vacant kennels.

## 23. Kennel Care

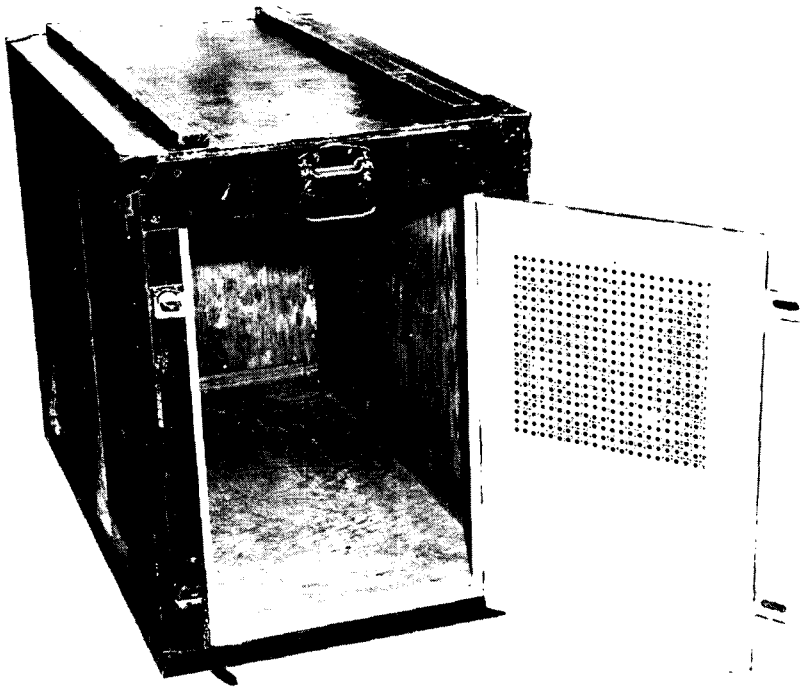
a. Kennels should be thoroughly cleaned each day to encourage cleanliness in the dogs. They should be cleaned the first thing in the morning. The kennel attendant must check the kennels from time to time during the day and clean them again, when necessary.

He inspects them again after feeding and, at the end of the day, he removes all feces again. The runways of permanent kennels should be carefully hosed every day and the kennels should be scrubbed thoroughly at least once a week. The importance of daily kennel care cannot be overemphasized for it is the primary preventive measure for continued good health of the dogs. Dirty kennels are the main source of most of their communicable diseases.

b. Kennels should be examined for damage or wetness after storms.

c. The ground around each kennel should be raked and gravel added as required. In arctic or subarctic regions, the kennel floor should be gravel, thus the dog's feet are toughened on gravel during the summer months to prevent cutting on ice during the winter.

d. The bedding should be inspected, shaken up every day, and changed at least once a week. Wet or damp straw should be replaced immediately with dry straw. Certain types of hay, particularly clover, prairie, and timothy make excellent bedding. Straw has a tendency to mat or pack, whereas hay can readily be fluffed up by the dog, thus creating a better nesting arrangement. When a dog is moved from one kennel to another, the old bedding



*Figure 6. Kennel-type shipping crate.*

should be removed and burned, and the kennel should be disinfected.

## Section IV. GROOMING AND CARE

### 24. General

A dog must be groomed daily the year round. Grooming includes inspection and care of ears, nails, nose, teeth, and the anal glands. A good brushing keeps a dog clean and maintains his coat and skin in a healthy condition. If his coat is brushed properly each day, it is seldom necessary to bathe him. A dog must be kept free of fleas, lice, and ticks. A dog's appearance denotes his state of health as well as the care he receives and reflects directly on his handler.

### 25. Coat

*a.* German Shepherds have a double coat: the undercoat is composed of soft, woolly hair and the outer coat is composed of coarse hair, somewhat oily and water resistant. The coat offers protection from rain and excessive heat and cold.

*b.* It is important to give the coat a daily brushing. First, give the dog a good brisk rubdown with the fingertips to loosen dead skin. Follow the rubdown with a thorough but gentle brushing. The coat should be brushed twice, first against and then with the grain. This not only keeps the dog's coat clean and free from foreign matter but also polishes it and imparts a healthy, glowing appearance. Combing, also, is important to good grooming; the comb should be used with care to avoid damaging the dog's skin and undercoat.

### 26. Nose

The nose must be inspected for cuts, scratches, and mucous discharge. Cuts and scratches should be kept clean. In the case of a persistent watery or thick discharge, the veterinarian should be consulted. An excessively dry, hot, or moist nose is sometimes a symptom of ill health.

### 27. Ears

*a.* Grooming always includes a daily inspection of the ear flaps and ear canals and cleaning, if required. To clean the ear flaps, remove all matted dirt and food and brush them. Next, examine them for wounds, thickening of the margins, and other abnormal conditions.

*b.* The ear canals should be examined daily and all visible wax removed. This can be done with a piece of cotton dipped in a boric

acid solution or a solution of equal parts of hydrogen peroxide and water and applied to the visible parts of the ear canal in the inside flap of the ear. Wax should be removed in a gentle manner and the swab *must not* be forced into the ear canal. As many swabs should be used as are necessary to thoroughly cleanse the ears. After removing the wax, examine the ear canals for excessive hair growth. Excessive hair growth may become matted and cause the dog considerable discomfort as well as reduce his effectiveness in responding to oral commands.

c. Symptoms of ear trouble are evidenced when a dog constantly shakes his head, twitches his eyes, and scratches his ears with his hind feet. When the symptoms persist, the dog should be taken to the veterinarian for examination and treatment.

## 28. Eyes

When a dog has a mucous discharge from the eyes or foreign objects or other irregularities are noted in or about the eyes, he should be examined by a veterinarian. A dog's eyes are often referred to as the mirror of his body and their appearance often indicates the beginning of infections.

## 29. Nails and Pads

The dog's nails and pads are inspected daily. Long nails often break or grow into the pads, making a dog unfit for service either temporarily or permanently. Particular attention should be given to the nail of the first digit on the front legs. If this first digit, or dew claw, appears on the rear legs, it should be removed surgically by the veterinary officer. The pads are inspected daily for cuts, tears, raw spots, and foreign objects lodged in the creases. In arctic or subarctic climates, the nails should be trimmed periodically to prevent their tearing. In addition, the hair on the pads should be trimmed to prevent the pads from icing up, which causes them to bruise easily.

## 30. Teeth

Teeth must be inspected daily. They require cleaning when there is an accumulation of tartar. Normally, tartar is removed by the veterinarian. Sometimes dogs have abnormal or diseased teeth that have to be removed.

## 31. Bathing

a. A normal, healthy dog should be bathed as often as is necessary. His skin is rich in oil glands and deficient in sweat glands. Oil excreted by the oil glands keeps the skin soft and prevents it

from becoming dry and cracking. This also protects the coat and makes the outer coat water-resistant. When a dog is bathed too frequently, the natural oil is removed from the skin and the skin and coat become unnaturally dry, resulting in a poor coat and minute cracks in the skin. These cracks cause an irritation which makes the dog scratch and bite himself, thus preparing the way for eczema or infectious skin ailments.

b. Before bathing a dog, put a wad of cotton in each ear. Take care not to let soapy water get in the dog's eyes. The temperature of the bath water should be no more than 5° higher than the room or area where the dog is bathed. Any good soap which does not contain too much free alkali may be used, provided care is taken to rinse away all traces of the soap before the dog is removed from the bath. When soap is left in the coat, it becomes sticky, collects dirt, and causes skin irritation. After the bath, dry the dog with towels as thoroughly as possible, then massage him by hand and brush his coat. Finally, as an aid to drying, he may be encouraged to run outdoors for a while, preferably when the sun is shining, never when the weather is very cold.

### **32. Skin Parasites**

a. See paragraph 51.

b. Daily grooming helps to keep the dog free from skin parasites, but more drastic measures may be needed, such as dipping, spraying, or the use of insect powder as prescribed by the veterinarian.

### **33. Evacuation of Intestines and Bladder**

A dog must be allowed to empty both his bladder and intestines at regular intervals. One of these periods must be shortly before the training period to prevent him from interrupting the training procedure and to avoid fouling the training field. If a dog needs to evacuate during the training period, and is not allowed to do so, he is usually unable to give his best training performance. It should be borne in mind that a mature dog cannot empty his bladder thoroughly except by frequent evacuations. He must be allowed time to perform this function thoroughly. Urine is discharged from the bladder at frequent, short intervals until pressure is entirely relieved.

### **34. Anal Glands**

The anal glands are small glands situated on either side of the dog's anus or rectum. They often become impacted with their secretion, and sometimes they become infected. Both conditions

cause annoyance and pain. The secretion in these glands should be expressed, when necessary, by placing a large piece of cotton over the anus and pressing firmly with the thumb and forefingers on both sides of the rectum, expelling the impacted matter into the cotton. Infected glands require immediate treatment by the veterinarian.

## Section V. FEEDING

### 35. Food Requirements

*a.* To a great extent, a dog is able to digest the same foods as man. As far as anyone knows, the dog has the same nutritional requirements as man. The dog in the wild state does a very good job of balancing his diet. When he kills a rabbit he devours it entirely; he may eat even the head and fur. A dog can, however, be maintained in just as good a physical condition on a diet balanced artificially. Proteins contained in the muscles of the rabbit are also to be found in other meat, milk products, and certain plant products. In place of the plant products found in the stomach of the rabbit, the balanced feed provides carbohydrates through corn, and other plant products. Vitamins contained in animal carcasses may also be provided through the use of suitable artificial concentrates. Foods may be classified according to what they will supply to the animal's system. In general they are grouped as follows:

- (1) Proteins—Flesh makers and tissue builders; mostly supplied to dogs in meat.
- (2) Fats—Energy and heat producers; supplied in meat fats.
- (3) Carbohydrates—Energy producers; supplied in bread and cereals.
- (4) Minerals—Bone builders; supplied in cereals, vegetables, and bones.
- (5) Vitamins—Essential in the dog's diet. (A normal dog does not need supplemental vitamin feeding; ordinarily, the foods named in (1) through (4) above contain the necessary vitamins.)

*b.* For authority to requisition military dog rations, see AR 725-8710-2.

### 36. Meat and Other Sources of Protein

*a.* Meat is considered the essential part of a normal dog's diet. Most meat or meat products can be used, but beef, mutton, lamb, and horse are preferred. Horse meat is an excellent food for dogs provided that it is not too lean, or that an amount of fat is added.

Meat may be fed raw, boiled, roasted, or broiled, but should not be fried. It may be fed in medium size pieces or ground.

b. Other sources of protein are eggs, which should be fed cooked ; milk, dried or raw ; cheese ; and fish. Fish, fresh, frozen, or canned makes a satisfactory substitute for meat. Since the protein content of fish, milk, and cheese is usually somewhat lower than in meat, it is necessary to feed larger quantities of these foods to obtain the same protein balance. Meat or other sources of protein must be regularly included in the dog's ration, and should constitute at least one-third of the total to insure satisfactory growth of young dogs and repair of tissue in mature animals.

c. Plant proteins, particularly legumes, are also valuable in a dog's diet.

### **37. Water**

Clean fresh water should be supplied for drinking, although usually a dog is not particular about the source of his water supply and will drink anywhere if he is thirsty. The handler may note that a dog will eat the meal provided and immediately go to the water bowl. Usually he will drink a few laps and go away. Occasionally, a dog will drink excessive quantities of water, which causes him to vomit. In such cases, it may be necessary to ration the water in small quantities at frequent intervals. If the vomiting condition persists, it should be brought to the attention of the veterinarian.

### **38. Cereals and Cereal Products**

Cereal grains and certain cereal products are not greatly relished by dogs. Such foods should be given, however, since they supply bulk, energy, protein, some vitamins, and minerals. Cereals may constitute a third of the total feed for mature dogs. The cereal grains most commonly used for dog feeding are corn, rice, oats, wheat, and barley.

a. Corn is used chiefly as meal to make cornbread, a feed that is most suitable as a cold weather ration and for dogs that get quite a bit of exercise. Cornbread is rich in carbohydrates.

b. Rice is considered a suitable dog feed. It must be cooked thoroughly and should be slightly seasoned with salt to make it palatable. Unpolished rice is superior to the common polished type both in vitamin and mineral content.

c. Oats are sometimes of value if they are ground or rolled. This food must be cooked thoroughly. Like cornbread, it is best for active, outdoor dogs, and as a cold weather ration.



*d.* Except in commercially prepared canned foods, wheat is seldom used as a cooked grain for dog feeding, but various products made from wheat often find their way into the canine ration. Chief of these are bread, some dry prepared breakfast foods, dog meals, and dog biscuits.

- (1) Bread is useful in a variety of forms. Dried or toasted bread that is not needed for human use makes a good cereal food for dogs when given in combination with meat broths, soup, or milk. When fed in this way, only enough liquid should be added to moisten the bread. Moldy bread must never be fed to dogs.
- (2) When prepared breakfast foods made from wheat or other cereal grain are fed, they are usually moistened with milk, broth, or water. Such foods are suitable for a light morning meal.
- (3) Dog biscuits of various kinds are also generally suitable for supplying the cereal portion of the ration. They may be fed dry, moistened, or mixed with cooked meat and vegetables. These biscuits can be obtained in many sizes and shapes (square, oval, bone-shaped, cubes, pellets, or kibbled—broken into small pieces), and their composition varies, depending on the specific use for which they are intended. Practically all of them are high in cereal and low in moisture content, and they contain various combinations of meat byproducts.
- (4) Commercially made dog meals are usually similar to dog biscuits in composition, but are ordinarily not so well adapted to a variety of uses. They are generally fed mixed with water or milk.

*e.* Barley is not very palatable to a dog, but is used in the cooked form in some commercial mixtures.

### **39. Bones**

*a.* Although bones are not absolutely necessary to keep a dog in top physical shape they are useful in helping keep the animal's teeth clean. An occasional bone may be given to a dog provided it is a knuckle joint. Bones which shatter, such as chicken bones, must never be fed to a military dog. If bones are small or brittle enough to shatter, pieces or splinters may scrape, cut, and even perforate the stomach or intestines. If they pass safely to the rectum, small particles may pack together and cause clogging or inflammation there.

*b.* It is a good practice to give a dog a knuckle joint once a week

and let him keep it for a limited time (about 4 hours). Dogs must be separated when given bones to prevent fighting.

#### 40. Vegetables

The primary function of vegetables in the dog ration is to furnish vitamins and minerals, supply bulk, act as fillers, and regulate the bowels. Of the common vegetables, canned or raw tomatoes are suitable because they can be mashed easily and mixed with various other foods. The extensive use of vegetables which have a high fiber content should be avoided. The normal cereal ration for a military dog has the necessary amount of vegetables included.

#### 41. General Feeding Rules

The following rules should be generally observed:

*a. Average Ration.* The normal daily ration for a scout or sentry dog in training or when performing full duty should be four pounds. This ration is broken down into one-third horsemeat, one-third cereal or biscuit, and one-third water. After mixing, the food should be allowed to stand for about 30 minutes before being fed to the dog. This allows the cereal time to absorb the liquid used. A dog may be put on one-quarter, one-half, or three-quarter ration, depending on his size and whether he is overweight, and on the amount of work he performs.

*b. Number of Meals.* Ordinarily, one meal a day is enough for a mature dog. To bring an underweight dog to proper working condition, he may be fed a supplemental ration of milk, eggs, cereal, or additional normal rations in excess of four pounds per day.

*c. Time of Feeding.* The time of feeding depends on whether the dog is to work on the night or day shift. He must never be fed his ration just before he goes to work and never immediately after strenuous exercise. A dog works best when his stomach is empty. A full stomach makes him sluggish. The same principle is applied for feeding during training.

*d. Dryness of Food.* As a general rule, it is desirable to feed dogs a slightly dry diet. The mixed food should be crumbly moist. Sloppy food is difficult to digest because the excessive moisture in the food dilutes the dog's gastric juices and retards chemical action on the food. Sometimes, a dog will regurgitate food that is sloppy.

## Section VI. PREVENTION OF DISEASE AND FIRST AID FOR INJURIES

### 42. General

The treatment of dog diseases and injuries and the prevention of diseases are functions of the Veterinary Corps. Many diseases and injuries are preventable if all who are concerned with the dogs are vigilant, intelligent, and untiring in the application of simple preventive measures. Frequently, the development of serious diseases or injuries can be prevented by prompt first aid measures and early treatment.

### 43. Healthy Dog

Health is the condition of the body in which all bodily functions are performed in a normal manner. It is particularly essential that the normal functions of the body of the animal be thoroughly understood, otherwise one cannot hope to recognize abnormalities.

*a. Appearance.* In the standing position, a dog's four feet are placed squarely on the ground or one hind foot may be placed slightly in advance of the other. The head is held alert, the eyes are wide open, the nose is moist and free from discharge, and the ears are erect (fig. 7). The coat has a lustre and the skin is supple and easily moved about over the structure underneath. The color of the mucous membranes of the eyes, nostrils, and mouth is salmon pink.

*b. Natural Functions.* The bowels are evacuated on an average of three to 4 times in the course of 24 hours and the stool should be formed and free from mucous. The color of the stool will vary according to what the dog eats. The urine is voided at frequent intervals. Its color varies from light to dark yellow, depending on the dog's diet.

*c. Temperature.* The normal body temperature of the dog at rest is 101° F., but may vary 1° in either direction. Immediately after work, and especially under a hot sun, the temperature of healthy animals may rise, but as a rule it is unaffected by climatic conditions and it is thus a most valuable guide to a dog's general state of health. The temperature is taken with a clinical thermometer in the rectum. The thermometer is moistened or oiled and the mercury is shaken down to 96° F. or lower. The bulb of the thermometer is inserted in the anus and allowed to remain for 3 minutes. When it is withdrawn, the temperature is read, the thermometer washed in cold water, and the mercury shaken down again below normal. A rise in temperature often precedes any visible symp-

toms in contagious diseases and is important in confirming a suspected infection.

*d. Breathing.* A dog's breathing may be most conveniently noted by the rise and fall of his flanks. The number of respiratory movements while he is at rest will normally vary from 8 to 16 per minute in moderate weather. These should not be counted when the animal is first approached, as excitement or movement causes an increase in the number of respirations. Immediately following exercise, the respiration rate may increase to 60 to 90 per minute. During warm weather, while the dog is at rest, respiration is greatly accelerated due to the fact that the skin glands are not active enough to assist in the respiratory functions. To make up for this lack, the dog breathes through his mouth and increases the frequency of respiration.

*e. Pulse.* The normal pulse rate is from 70 to 100 beats per minute. The pulse may be felt on the left side just in back of the elbow joint, or by placing the fingertips lightly on the femoral artery which is located on the inside of each hind leg. The beats should be counted for 30 seconds and multiplied by two. The animal should be at perfect rest when the pulse is taken, as exercise and excitement quickens it. In illness, the pulse is usually faster than normal and may be stronger or weaker.



*Figure 7. An alert healthy dog.*

f. *Mucous Membranes of the Eyes, Nose, and Mouth.* Normally, the mucous membranes are a salmon pink color and free from congested areas and discharges. During illness, they may become red, pale or white, or yellow.

g. *Skin.* In health, the skin should be supple and roll easily on the underlying structure. The hair should have a lustre, feel soft, and lie evenly. In disease, the skin is dry as if adhering to the muscles below; the coat is dull in appearance, harsh to the touch, with the hair on end instead of lying flat.

#### 44. Indications of Disease

Every disease has different indications and the symptoms vary so greatly that only exhaustive study can acquaint one with their many indications. The most common preliminary indications of disease are partial or complete loss of appetite, rise in temperature, accelerated breathing, increased pulse rate, listlessness, dejected appearance, nasal discharge, persistent cough, diarrhea, constipation, unhealthy coat of hair, and swelling in any part of the body. One of the first and most important symptoms of sickness is loss of appetite. The best time to inspect dogs for evidence of sickness or injury is while they are being fed or groomed.

#### 45. Classes of Diseases

##### a. *Communicable Diseases.*

- (1) *Definition.* Communicable diseases are diseases that are transmitted from animal to animal either by direct contact between sick and well, or indirectly through the medium of infected kennels, unsanitary feeding dishes, flies, lice, ticks, mosquitoes, and faulty sanitation. A diseased animal throws off in the discharges from the respiratory, digestive, and urinary systems the material which transmits the disease to other susceptible animals. Some of these diseases are incurable, some may be transmitted to man, and all may cause great harm if not held in check. Communicable diseases are always marked by a period of incubation, which is the time interval that elapses between infection and the appearance of the symptoms of the disease. This period may vary from a few days to several weeks. Examples of contagious diseases are distemper, rabies, mange, and ringworm.
- (2) *Predisposing causes.* Conditions that lower general vitality and natural resistance to disease, thereby making dogs more susceptible to infection, are termed predisposing causes. The principal causes are exposure, improper

grooming, lack of sufficient food, overwork, and other diseases.

- (3) *Prevention.* The logical way to prevent the entrance of communicable disease is to correct the faulty conditions that predispose the animal. When a disease once gains entrance to a group of dogs, there are certain rules of procedure that have been found necessary to check its spread to healthy animals and to stamp it out. These measures are—

- (a) Daily inspection of all animals to detect new cases.
- (b) Quarantine of exposed animals.
- (c) Isolation of sick animals.
- (d) Disinfection of infected kennels and the surrounding area, equipment, and utensils.

- (4) *Quarantine.*

- (a) Quarantine is the separation of the apparently healthy dogs that have been exposed to the infection from those that are healthy and have not been exposed.
- (b) Animals that have been exposed or are suspected to have been exposed to a communicable disease are potential sources of infection and they may be in the incubative stage of the disease. In many diseases, a dog may be infected during the incubation period or in the very early stages of the disease before the characteristic symptoms are noticeable. For this reason, such animals should be placed in quarantine to protect the unexposed animals.
- (c) The incubation period for most of the ordinary communicable diseases of dogs is less than 3 weeks. It is obvious that the period of quarantine should be longer than the period of incubation.
- (d) The quarantine of exposed animals during an outbreak of disease is mandatory. It is prescribed in AR 40-905. A quarantine period of not less than 21 days has been adopted by the Army. The discovery of a new case in the quarantine group is cause for beginning a new period of quarantine. Provisions for the quarantine of newly arrived animals at a station are also in AR 40-905.
- (e) The place selected for quarantine should be located so that it is impossible for other dogs to enter or come in contact with the quarantined dogs.
- (f) The severity of quarantine rules depends upon the

nature of the disease. Attendants in the quarantine area should not handle other dogs, and strict sanitation is mandatory at all times.

- (5) *Isolation*. Isolation is the absolute segregation from all other animals of an animal with a communicable disease, or one suspected of being infected. It must be complete in every detail to be of any value.
- (6) *Disinfection*. The application of agents called disinfectants, used for the purpose of destroying disease-producing organisms, is called disinfection. It is essential to thoroughly clean kennels and equipment before disinfecting them. It is a waste of time to disinfect a kennel, utensil, or anything used by a dog unless it has previously been thoroughly cleaned. Fresh air and sunlight are potent disinfectants. Therefore, a kennel with plenty of windows and ventilation is more sanitary than one that is dark and damp.

*b. Noncommunicable Diseases*. Noncommunicable diseases include all diseases that are not transmissible either directly or indirectly from one animal to another. Many of these diseases are directly caused by improper methods of animal management. While noncommunicable diseases are the cause of many lost days of animal service, they do not present the serious problems encountered in communicable diseases. Examples of noncommunicable diseases are tumors, epilepsy, and nutritional disturbances.

#### 46. Nursing

*a.* Good nursing is indispensable in the treatment of sick and injured dogs. The chief points to consider in nursing are—

- (1) *Ventilation*. Allow plenty of fresh air, but protect the dog from drafts. Avoid exposure to extreme temperatures and, in the field, provide shelter from wind and rain.
- (2) *Bedding*. A good, clean, bed induces an ailing dog to rest. It should be changed several times a day and all food particles and fecal matter should be removed.

*b.* Convalescent animals should receive as much exercise as their individual cases permit. It must be borne in mind, however, that rest is one of the best treatments.

*c.* Dogs that are weak or depressed should not be too thoroughly groomed. They should be carefully brushed once a day and the eyes and nostrils wiped out with a moist piece of cotton. Animals that are only slightly sick should be completely groomed every day.

*d.* Some sick dogs retain a good appetite, but such patients

should not be overfed. Their stools should be kept soft, and they should have plenty of fresh water. Sick animals with impaired appetites require special attention and often relish a change in diet. They should be fed often and in small amounts. Uneaten portions should not be allowed to remain with the dog in the kennel. The feeding dishes should be kept clean. To induce eating, hand feeding or forced feeding of liquid foods may be used as a last resort.

#### 47. Wounds and Injuries

*a. Wounds.* A break in the skin, body tissues, or lining of a body cavity, resulting from external violence or muscular activity of the body itself, is known as a wound. For the purpose of description, wounds are classified as incised wounds or cuts, lacerated wounds or tears, punctured wounds or holes, and abrasions.

- (1) Incised wounds or cuts are caused by sharp objects. Although this type of wound bleeds freely due to the cut blood vessels, there is very little tissue destruction and infection does not often follow if proper care and treatment is given.
- (2) Lacerated wounds or tears involve a destruction of tissue, and create a likely seat of infection. Bleeding is not as severe as in incised wounds.
- (3) Punctured wounds or holes may be caused by any object that will penetrate the tissues. Nails, sharp pieces of wood, and bullets are some of the common causes. Wounds of this type are difficult to clean and favor infection due to extensive tissue destruction and foreign material which is carried into the deeper tissues. Hemorrhage in this type of wound is of little concern unless a large blood vessel is severed.
- (4) Abrasions are wounds caused by the rubbing of the skin against some object which produces an area of irritation. Rope burns are an example.

*b. First Aid Treatment of Wounds.* Before attempting to administer first aid, secure the dog's mouth with a muzzle.

- (1) Bleeding must be controlled before any attempt is made to clean or bandage a wound. Normally, it can be controlled by applying pressure directly to the bleeding surface. To do this, make a compress (a folded cloth or pad) with a clean piece of gauze or handkerchief, place it over the wound, and bind it firmly in position with a bandage. Have a veterinary officer examine the dog and give further treatment.



- (2) If a veterinary officer is not available, the handler may give the following emergency treatment. After bleeding has been controlled, clean the wound. First, clip the surrounding hair with scissors and wash the dirt from the injured parts with clean water. All visible foreign material should be removed from the wound but the wound should not be packed, probed, or covered with ointment. The wound may be covered first with gauze, then cotton. This dressing is secured with a bandage. Never place cotton directly over a wound, and never apply a bandage over a tourniquet. When first aid measures have been administered, carry the dog to the veterinarian for further examination and treatment.

*c. Injuries.* Bruises, strains, sprains, and fractures are classified as injuries. They are caused by external violence or from muscular activity of the body itself, and involve muscles, tendons, ligaments, joints, organs, and bones. A break in the skin need not accompany an injury.

*d. First Aid Treatment of Injuries.*

- (1) *Bruises and sprains.* The application of hot or cold packs to bruises, sprains, and strains will prove beneficial. Complete rest is essential.
- (2) *Fractures.* Most fractures occur in the extremities of the body. The causes are varied, but the greater number of cases result from falls, kicks, bites from other animals, and gunshot wounds. Before attempting to administer first aid, secure the dog's mouth with a muzzle. Assuming that the dog has a leg injury, place him in a reclining position and carefully examine the leg to determine the extent of the injury. If the leg is obviously fractured (broken), or a fracture is suspected, make splints from two flat pieces of wood wide enough and long enough to accommodate the length and shape of the leg. Place one splint on the inside and the other on the outside of the leg and bind both in position with strips of gauze bandage. The dog should then be carried to the veterinarian. When the fracture cannot be splinted, place the dog on a firm, improvised litter made from boards and carry him to the veterinarian.
- (3) *Eye injury.*
  - (a) Injuries to the eye are very common. They occur as wounds and lacerations, and result from contact with foreign objects or from external violence such as bites

received in dogfights. If at all possible, only a veterinary officer should treat eye injuries.

- (b) If a veterinary officer is not available, the handler may give the following emergency treatment. Bathe the injured eye with clear warm water and then examine it for the presence of foreign material. Carefully remove the foreign material if you can do so without causing further injury. Then place a moist piece of gauze over the eye and top it with a cotton pad. The gauze and pad should be held in place with a loose bandage.

(4) *Burns.*

- (a) Burns may be caused by hot liquids, chemicals, fire, and friction. The extent of the damage to the body tissues is defined by the appearance of the injured parts. In first degree burns, the skin is reddened. Blistering occurs with second degree burns. When deeper destruction occurs, the tissue takes on a cooked appearance and the condition is referred to as a third degree burn.
- (b) All burns should be treated immediately by a veterinary officer. Care should be taken to avoid contamination of the injured surface.

#### 48. Bandages

*a. Uses.* Bandages are one of the oldest forms of surgical apparatus and are employed under varying conditions for many purposes. The chief uses for bandages are to—

- (1) Control bleeding by pressure.
- (2) Hold dressings and compresses in place.
- (3) Hold splints in place.
- (4) Immobilize a part of the body.

*b. Application.*

- (1) The roller bandage is the type most frequently used for applying dressings, splints, compresses, and pressure. To apply it, use one hand to hold and direct the roll, the other to keep each lap smooth and to hold the turn while taking up slack or changing directions. Apply the bandage to the injured part snugly enough to exert the desired amount of pressure and to prevent slipping, but be careful not to shut off circulation by too much pressure. When the ends of the bandage are secured they should be tied only as tight as the bandage has been applied.
- (2) A bandage should be applied over gauze and cotton and not directly to the body. It is not advisable to apply a wet

gauze bandage, for it may tighten as it dries and cause undue pressure. Bruised areas usually become swollen within a short time following injury. This should be borne in mind when bandaging is contemplated, as the application of a snug bandage to the original wound will impair circulation if swelling occurs.

- (3) In applying a bandage to an injured leg, it is advisable to bandage the foot as well, even when the foot is not injured. This prevents swelling below the wound and makes the bandage more secure. In securing the ends of the bandage, fasten them on the outside of the leg but not directly over the injured area, as pressure from the knot on the wound will cause the animal discomfort.
- (4) When a dog's body needs to be bandaged, a split-tailed bandage may be used. This is made from a piece of cloth long enough to completely encircle the body and provide strips for ties. The material is folded in half and strips are cut into the material at the open ends. A dressing is placed on the chest, flank, or abdomen, as required, the bandage is placed around the body, and the strips tied on top of the back. Made on a smaller scale, a split-tailed bandage may be applied to the head or neck.

#### 49. Disturbances of the Digestive System

*a. Foreign Bodies in the Mouth.* When a dog claws at his mouth, has difficulty in eating, or has an excessive flow of saliva, the presence of a foreign object in his mouth should be suspected. Pieces of bone, splinters of wood, and small stones will lodge between the teeth and cause the dog distress. Caution must be exercised in handling a dog that shows these symptoms as similar symptoms are noted in dogs having rabies. Cases of this kind should be diagnosed by the veterinarian.

*b. Disturbance of the Digestive Tract.* Digestive disturbances are characterized by loss of appetite, persistent vomiting, diarrhea, stools streaked with blood or covered with mucous, and constipation. These symptoms may be due to faulty diet, eating of poisonous substances, infections, foreign bodies in the intestines, or parasitic infection.

- (1) When there is persistent vomiting and diarrhea, food should be withheld and the quantity of drinking water limited. Purgatives should not be administered until the cause of the illness has been determined.
- (2) Constipation is usually the result of heavy feeding, insufficient exercise, and the use of bones and dry biscuits

in the diet. Constipated animals should be taken to the veterinarian for treatment.

- (3) When it is known or suspected that a dog has eaten some poisonous substance, vomiting should be induced immediately. Make the dog vomit by administering large quantities of soapy water, salt water, or dishwater. When the dog has vomited freely, administer a tablespoonful of Epsom salts diluted with water. If a poison such as bichloride of mercury has been eaten, follow the above treatment and then administer large quantities of milk. Keep the dog warm until further treatment can be given by a veterinarian.
- (4) Intestinal parasites will cause digestive disturbances. Those commonly found in the digestive tract of a dog are roundworms, tapeworms, hookworms, and whipworms. Occasionally, the presence of parasites may be detected by a visual examination of a dog's stool. Frequently, tapeworm segments will be noticed adhering to the hair around the anus. A microscopic examination of the feces by the veterinarian will reveal the presence of parasitic ova. The veterinarian will prescribe specific treatment.

## 50. Disturbance of Nervous System

In case of any disturbance of a dog's nervous system, such as hysteria, convulsions, or general nervous disturbances, do not attempt to apply restraint or administer treatment. If the dog is on a leash, tie him to a stake in a shaded area or place him in a kennel and allow the condition to subside. Summon a veterinarian or, if the dog's condition returns to normal, carry him to the veterinary hospital for observation.

## 51. External Parasites

Fleas, lice, and ticks are parasites which are found on the body of the dog.

*a. Fleas.* Fleas reside in unsanitary surroundings. They attach themselves to dogs and receive nourishment by sucking blood. They cause the dog considerable annoyance and, in large numbers, may produce chronic skin eruptions. They also cause the dog to inflict self-injury by persistent scratching. Fleas on the dog can be destroyed by applying flea powder or by bathing the dog in a 1 to 2 percent solution of creolin.

*b. Lice.* Dogs are subject to infestation by two varieties of lice (biting and sucking). All dogs in the kennel should be examined

during the daily grooming for evidence of lice infestation. A dog infested with lice should be isolated and treated with a parasiticide prescribed by a veterinary officer.

*c. Ticks.* The common dog tick is a blood-sucking parasite which attaches itself to the dog by burying its head in the dog's skin. The female tick is gray and the male is brown. Frequently, they will be found attached to one another or feeding on the same area. To remove ticks easily, moisten a piece of cotton with ether and place it over the tick. Grasp the tick with the thumb and finger over the cotton and pull the tick gently but firmly away from the dog's body. Jerking the tick away leaves the tick's head imbedded in the tissue, which produces further irritation. The area from which the tick



*Figure 8. Hasty muzzle.*

is removed should be washed and an antiseptic applied. Ticks are placed in a receptacle as they are removed and are destroyed by burning. Ticks are carriers of disease transmissible to man and care should be exercised in handling them.

## **52. Reporting of Dog Bites**

Rabies is transmitted to animals and man through the bite of a rabid animal. Due to the prevalence of rabies in certain communities, it is important that all cases of dog bites be reported immediately. Dogs bitten by wild animals or other dogs should be placed in the custody of the veterinarian and quarantined as prescribed in AR 40-905. Military dogs that bite humans are placed under observation for fourteen days.

## **53. Restraint of Dogs**

*a.* Before examining or administering first aid to an injured dog it is always advisable to muzzle him, no matter how well the handler is acquainted with the dog's normal behavior. An injured or frightened dog will often bite as a mistaken act of self-defense.

*b.* A hasty muzzle may be fashioned from a piece of gauze bandage, a strong strip of cloth, or a leash. It is placed around the mouth and looped under the lower jaw. The ends of the leash (bandage) are pulled taut to tighten the loop and then passed to the back of the neck just below the ears, where they are securely held or tied (fig. 8). The muzzle shown in figure 9(1) may also be used.

## CHAPTER 3

### BASIC TRAINING

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#### Section I. PRINCIPLES OF DOG TRAINING

##### 54. General

There are no tricks or mystery to dog training. It is a fairly simple process if based on—

- a. A practical knowledge of how a dog's mind works.
- b. Constant repetition of training exercises.
- c. Suitable recognition of a dog's progress.
- d. Patience.

##### 55. General Principles

The effectiveness of a dog training program depends on the regard shown for certain basic principles.

a. The handler must establish himself as the master of the dog or dogs assigned to him. He pets, praises, feeds, and handles only the dogs assigned to him. He does not permit anyone else to make friends with them.

b. The handler must understand the limitations of a dog's mind. There are many things one cannot expect of a dog and many things one can, provided he is properly handled. In the beginning, a dog may be uncertain of what is expected of him. He may not fully understand a command until he has been made to carry it out numerous times.

c. There are specific techniques for giving commands so that they are suggestive or meaningful to a dog.

- (1) *Vocal commands* are given firmly and clearly. The tone and sound of the voice, not volume, are the qualities that influence the dog. Commands must be directed at the one dog concerned and not voiced in just any haphazard direction. They must inspire obedience.
- (2) Next to the voice, *gestures* are the chief means of influencing dogs. Often, vocal commands and gestures are combined. At first, gestures, may be exaggerated to help

convey the desired command to the dog. As training progresses, the exaggeration is reduced.

*d.* It is essential to make the dog carry out the same command over and over until he learns to respond to it without hesitating. Repetition is even more important in dog training than it is in human learning. However, both handler and dog can go stale or lose efficiency by practicing any one command too much during one period. In this case, it is better to go on to another exercise or let some time elapse, then return to the practice of the command.

*e.* The handler must never lose patience or become irritated. If he does, the dog will become hard to handle because he takes his cue from the handler's attitude. Patience is one of the prime requisites of a good dog handler, but it must be coupled with firmness. The moment the dog understands, the handler must demand that he obey if the dog is to be a prompt and accurate worker.

*f.* From the very beginning of training, the dog should never be permitted to ignore a command or fail to carry it out completely. He must learn to associate the handler's command with his execution of it. He should never be allowed to suspect that there is anything for him to do BUT obey. He must learn that he will have to do what the handler commands, that he will have to carry out the command completely, no matter how long it takes. Laxity on the part of the handler on even one occasion may result in an attitude or mood of disobedience that means difficulty and delay in the continuation of the training program. When the handler is sure that a dog knows what is expected of him and is being willfully stubborn, the handler may punish the dog by jerking sharply on the leash.

*g.* The purpose of punishment is improvement, not reprisal.

(1) A dog does not understand abstract principles of right and wrong according to human standards, so reward and punishment must be used to teach him what he must and must not do.

(2) It is seldom necessary to resort to physical punishment to teach a lesson to a sensitive dog. Withholding praise, using a rebuking tone, or even saying "No" reprovably, is usually punishment enough for him. If the dog is callous or insensitive, he must be punished more severely. The punishment must be made to fit the dog as well as the misdeed. Timing in punishment is most important. The correction, whatever form it takes, must always be administered immediately after the dog misbehaves. A dog



cannot connect punishment with a misdeed he committed several minutes earlier.

- (3) Severe punishment should be inflicted as a last resort and only for deliberate disobedience, stubbornness, or defiance when the dog has learned better. He must never be punished for clumsiness, slowness in learning, or inability to understand what is expected of him. Punishment for such reasons, instead of speeding training, will have the opposite effect. The word "No" is used to indicate to the dog that he is doing wrong. "No" is the only word used as a negative command. It is spoken in a stern and reproving tone. If this form of reproof is not successful, the dog should be chained or kenneled. A handler never slaps a dog with his hand or strikes him with the leash. The hand is an instrument of praise and pleasure to the dog and he must never be allowed to fear it; beating him with the leash will make him shy of it and lessen the effectiveness of its legitimate use. The dog's name is never used in connection with a correction.

*h.* Whenever a dog successfully executes a command, even though his performance has taken more time than desirable, the handler always rewards him with a pat on the head and praises him in some obvious way.

- (1) Dogs are usually anxious to please. They must be shown how to do so. When a dog is rewarded for his performance he senses that he has done the right thing and will do it more readily the next time he is given the same command. Praise may take the following forms:
  - (a) Kind words.
  - (b) Patting.
  - (c) Allowing a few minutes' romp.
  - (d) Allowing the dog to perform his favorite exercise, including free run and play.
- (2) It is not advisable to reward a military dog by feeding him tidbits, as he will become accustomed to this form of reward and expect it for some act performed in the field where such food is not available.
- (3) Every training period must conclude with petting, praise, and encouragement for the dog, to keep up his enthusiasm for his work. If the dog's performance of the particular exercise does not warrant this, he must be allowed to perform a short exercise he knows thoroughly and does well, so that he will earn the reward legitimately.

## Section II. QUALIFICATION OF HANDLERS

### 56. Essential Traits

Successful care and training of dogs depends to a great extent on personal characteristics of the handler. Experience has shown that the following traits are essential:

*a. Friendly Attitude Toward Dogs.* Any individual selected to train and handle dogs must have a genuine fondness for and interest in them. If this quality cannot be readily determined in prospective handlers, they should be considered unacceptable.

*b. Intelligence.* It has been demonstrated that individuals with less than average intelligence cannot be taught to care for and train dogs successfully.

*c. Patience and Perseverance.* The handler cannot force desired behavior upon dogs nor can he expect dogs to learn as rapidly as human beings. He must be patient and he must persevere until each exercise is brought to a successful conclusion.

*d. Mental and Physical Coordination.* A good handler must be able to convey his wishes to the dog by body movement and gestures as well as by voice. This requires a definite amount of mental and physical coordination.

*e. Physical Endurance.* Not only must the handler be able to show good coordination, he must also be able to maintain his efforts as long as necessary. The handler must be able to "outlast" his dog during each training period.

*f. Resourcefulness.* Although training procedure is carefully set forth, it is inevitable that situations will arise calling for action not covered by rules. A handler must be able to meet these situations successfully.

*g. Dependability.* The welfare of the dog is entirely in the hands of the handler. Dogs cannot disclose how they are being treated nor can they make reports. Their physical well-being depends, primarily, on the willingness of the handler to do such manual labor as necessary for kennel management, feeding, and dog cleanliness. Failure in these responsibilities means failure of the training program.

*h. Security Clearance.* Since dogs will be guarding sensitive installations, it is imperative for the handler to have a security clearance.

### 57. Determination of Qualifications

There are no purely objective methods of determining how well

a prospective handler qualifies in the desirable traits. However, prospective handlers cannot be selected haphazardly. Interviews provide a satisfactory basis for selection if carefully conducted by a responsible and duly qualified officer or civilian trainer. Each candidate should be examined before he is permitted to undergo any training with military dogs. To insure the effectiveness of this procedure, each candidate should undergo a second interview after 1 week of training. At this time the candidate should be able to give a reasonably clear and intelligent account of the instruction he has received and his attitude toward military dog training should be carefully checked. If the candidate is rated unsatisfactory upon conclusion of this interview, he should receive no further training and should be transferred to another organization.

### Section III. OUTLINE OF TRAINING PROGRAM

#### 58. Objectives

The objectives of basic training are to—

- a. Develop in dogs the behavior that is basic to more specialized training for specific military functions.
- b. Determine the specific military function for which each dog should be trained.
- c. Teach specially selected enlisted men to—
  - (1) Train dogs.
  - (2) Train men in the using agencies to which the dogs may be assigned.

#### 59. Scope

The basic training program involves—

- a. Training dogs to carry out the following fundamental commands:
  - (1) On leash—
    - (a) Heel.
    - (b) Sit.
    - (c) Down.
    - (d) Stay.
    - (e) Come.
    - (f) Crawl.
    - (g) Jump (Up).
  - (2) Off leash—
    - (a) Heel.
    - (b) Sit.

- (c) Down.
  - (d) Stay.
  - (e) Come.
  - (f) Jump (Up).
- b. Accustoming dogs to—
- (1) Wearing muzzles and gas masks.
  - (2) Riding in a vehicle.
  - (3) Tolerating gunfire.

## 60. Personnel

Three classes of personnel are involved in the training of dogs.

a. *Instructors.* Qualified experts designated to take charge of training men and dogs in either the scouting or sentry field.

b. *Assistant Instructors.* Qualified individuals designated by each instructor to assist him in training his classes.

c. *Handlers.* Men undergoing training in classes conducted by instructors and assistant instructors. These men simultaneously train dogs.

## 61. Equipment

a. The chief equipment (fig. 9) in the training program consists of the following and is issued for each dog.

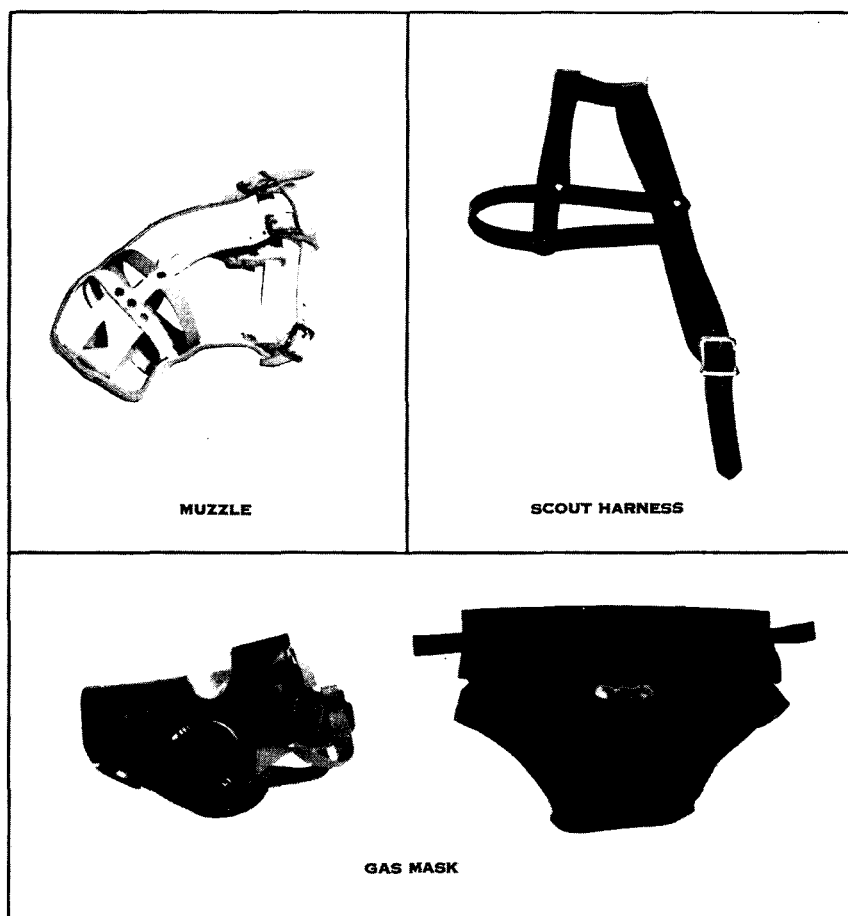
- (1) A feeding and watering pan.
- (2) A russet leather muzzle, used when transporting a dog and when the veterinarian is treating or operating on a dog.
- (3) A 25-foot leash of cotton webbing, used with obedient dogs and when a distance between the dog and the handler is desired.
- (4) A 5-foot leather leash, used to control dogs in obedience training and scouting duties.
- (5) A leather leash holder that the handler wears on his belt to hold the leash when he needs both hands free.
- (6) A steel chain, choke-type collar, used for obedience training and for controlling a dog when moving from one area to another.
- (7) A 1-inch wide leather collar, used as a work collar for sentry dogs and to tie nonworking sentry and scout dogs.
- (8) A zinc coated kennel chain. This is the only piece of equipment used with the leather collar to tie dogs in the field.

- (9) A comb.
- (10) A grooming brush (horse-grooming brush, M-1912, black).
- (11) A gas mask.
- (12) A leather harness, used only with scout dogs when they work a problem or go on a patrol.

b. The proper use of these items of equipment is of the utmost importance since it is by these means, combined with voice and gestures, that the handler communicates his wishes to the dog and controls and disciplines him.

## 62. Facilities

Basic training classes should be held within an inclosed area, but an uninclosed area may be used when necessary.



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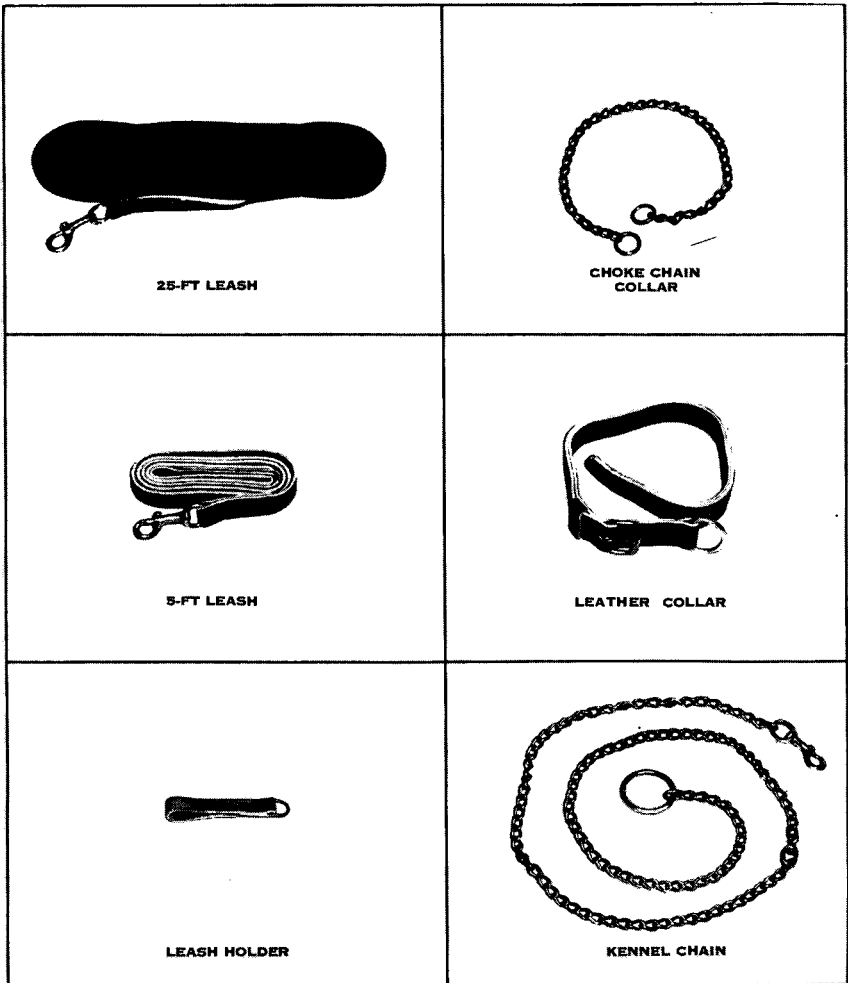
*Figure 9. Dog-handling equipment.*

### 63. General Procedures

a. As soon as a handler has a dog assigned to him he takes the dog for a walk on a leash to become acquainted and to help establish mutual understanding before training begins.

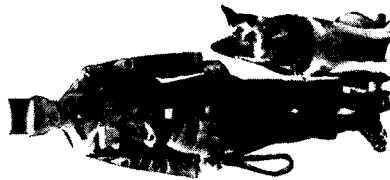
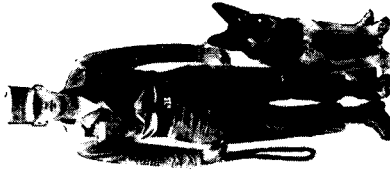
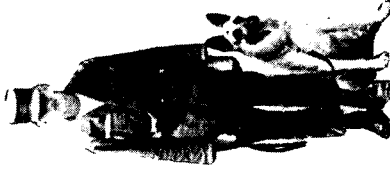
b. Instruction is organized as follows:

- (1) The working unit for training is the squad (fig. 10) with the assistant instructor of each squad in charge.
- (2) At the beginning of a training period each assistant instructor takes his squad of handlers to the kennels to fetch the dogs they are to work with for that period.
- (3) Under the supervision of the assistant instructor, the handlers put their dogs on leash and fall in line, with



2

Figure 9—Continued.



*Figure 10. Military dog squad.*

each dog on the left side of his handler and an interval of 6 feet between handlers.

- (4) From this point, the training proceeds under the direction of the instructor or assistant instructor, or both.
- (5) At the end of the training period, the assistant instructor leads his squad back to the kennels where another group of dogs is assembled for the next period.
- (6) The length of each training period is determined by the instructor, based on the weather and willingness of the dogs. Ordinarily, each dog is given frequent but short training periods (10–20 minutes each) daily. During hot weather, a temperature of 90° or over, training periods are restricted to early morning hours.
- (7) Every training period starts with a short exercise in commands the dog has already learned. In this way the dog's mastery of the basic responses is strengthened. Also, starting the training period with familiar activities gives the dog confidence, puts him into a spirit of obedience, and thus makes it easier for him to learn the new exercises. The review periods can be shortened to about five minutes as training advances.

#### 64. Corrective Command

The only corrective command used in training is NO, given in a stern voice. A dog must learn quickly that the command NO indicates his handler's displeasure.

### Section IV. HEEL (ON LEASH)

#### 65. Standard of Performance

At the command HEEL, the dog (of his own accord) walks to the handler's left side with his right shoulder even with the handler's left knee. The leash hangs loose. The dog must heel correctly whenever the handler changes his direction of movement, or when he walks through a group of people, and at the halt (figs. 11 and 12).

#### 66. Training Procedure

##### *a. Initial Exercise in Heeling.*

- (1) The squad falls in, each dog at his handler's left. The handler holds the end of the leash in his right hand, and the leash hangs loosely in front of him. The instructor or assistant instructor gives the command FORWARD,



**MARCH.** Each handler then gives his dog the command **HEEL** in a firm voice, jerks slightly on the leash, and steps off smartly, keeping a 6-foot interval with the handler on his right. The squad walks clockwise around a prearranged training square several times, changing direction at the corners without command. During the walk, each handler repeats the command **HEEL** to his dog every two or three steps, and continuously tries to get the dog to walk easily on a loose leash at his side. From time to time, he supplements the oral command with a command gesture which consists of slapping the side of his thigh with his left hand (fig. 12). If the dog gets ahead or falls behind, the handler jerks on the leash and repeats the command **HEEL**, and slaps his thigh. The handler never pulls steadily on the leash, and he does not allow the dog to pull on it. He jerks the leash repeatedly, when necessary, allowing it to fall slack immediately after each jerk. A steady pull causes the dog to set his muscles against the collar and makes the taut leash ineffective for training purposes. If the dog pulls



*Figure 11. Dog at heel on the march.*



*Figure 12. Command gesture for HEEL.*

ahead, causing the leash to become taut, the handler drops his hand to lessen the tension, then jerks the leash.

- (2) This exercise is also practiced walking counterclockwise around the training square so the dog can learn to make left turns smoothly at heel. The handler may nudge the dog's shoulder with his left leg as they start to make a left turn to help the dog understand the direction he is to take.

*b. Advanced Exercises in Heeling.* To vary the monotony of practice in heeling, as well as to teach the dogs to stick close to their handlers, the instructors or his assistant should occasionally command, left face, right face, and to the rear.

- (1) At the command LEFT (RIGHT) FACE, MARCH, each handler makes a quarter turn in the desired direction, giving the command HEEL at the same time, and slapping his thigh.
- (2) TO THE REAR, MARCH is given as the squad is heeling in single file around the training square. At the command MARCH, each handler takes one more step forward and faces to the rear in marching. As he turns, he gives his dog the command HEEL and jerks on the leash. He may jerk the leash once or twice during the turn to help the dog understand he is to follow around the handler and come to heel on his left side.

*c. Amount of Training.* Practice in heeling is continued in periods of about 15 minutes until perfection is achieved.

## Section V. SIT (ON LEASH)

### 67. Standard of Performance

At the command SIT, which is given when the dog is either standing, lying, or heeling, the dog must promptly assume a sitting position.

### 68. Training Procedure

*a.* SIT is taught in conjunction with heeling, but not until after the dog has learned to heel. After several times around the training square at heel, the instructor or his assistant commands HALT. As the handler stops, he gives the command SIT. At the same time, he pushes the dog's hindquarters downward with his left hand and pulls upward on the leash with his right hand as shown in figure 13. He follows this procedure at each repetition of the command SIT until the dog understands what is wanted of him and will sit at the oral command only.

*b.* If the dog does not sit facing directly forward, but to the left or right, or facing the handler, the handler swings the dog's body around with his left hand to get him into the proper position. If the dog sits behind the handler or too far from his side, he pulls the dog's head close to his left side by using the leash; with his left hand, he restrains the dog from getting up and following the leash. This correction is most effective when carried out as the



*Figure 13. Handler easing dog into sitting position.*

dog is in the act of sitting, before his hindquarters have touched the ground. Each handler must insist on the proper position at every halt (fig. 14). The instructor or assistant instructor should allow enough time for the dog to execute SIT and the handler to correct the position before he gives the order to march again (FORWARD, MARCH). When this command is given, the handler gives the command HEEL, as before, and moves out. This exercise is repeated as often as necessary for the dog to learn to sit in response to the oral command only.



*Figure 14. Sitting in heel position at the halt.*

## Section VI. DOWN (ON LEASH)

### 69. Standard of Performance

At the command DOWN, which is accompanied by a downward motion of the arm (fig. 15), the dog must lie down promptly. The dog is expected to make this response to the oral command and the command gesture given alternately, whether he is standing, sitting, or heeling (fig. 16).

## 70. Training Procedure

*a. Formation.* The command DOWN can best be taught with the handlers lined up in front of their dogs. Each handler gives the oral command to his own dog, while the instructor or assistant goes up and down the line to help and make corrections.

### *b. Procedure.*

- (1) The handler does not use the command gesture when first teaching DOWN. Instead, as he commands DOWN, he grips the dog's leash close to the collar and jerks down on it. If the dog braces himself and refuses to go down, the handler pulls his forelegs out with his free hand and pulls down on the leash, at the same time repeating DOWN. As soon as the dog is down, the handler praises and pats him. He then holds the end of the leash in his hand, stands before his dog, and commands SIT. If the dog does not sit, the handler pulls upward on the leash, steps closer to the dog and repeats the command SIT. As soon as the command has been properly executed, he praises the dog again.
- (2) As soon as the dog learns to assume the DOWN position without being touched by the handler, the handler starts using the command gesture (fig. 15) along with the oral command.

## 71. Amount of Training in the Command "DOWN"

This exercise should be repeated four or five times in a period. It is a depressing exercise and must not be repeated too often in succession. After the first period, a series of exercises devoted to this command, as well as HEEL and SIT can be alternated or practiced concurrently.

## Section VII. STAY (ON LEASH)

### 72. Standard of Performance

At the command STAY, the dog holds the position he is in when the command is given, while the handler moves away from him. The dog must remain in this position until the handler returns to him and gives a different command. The command STAY may be given while the dog is standing, sitting, or down.

### 73. Training Procedure

#### *a. Stay (Dog in Down Position).*

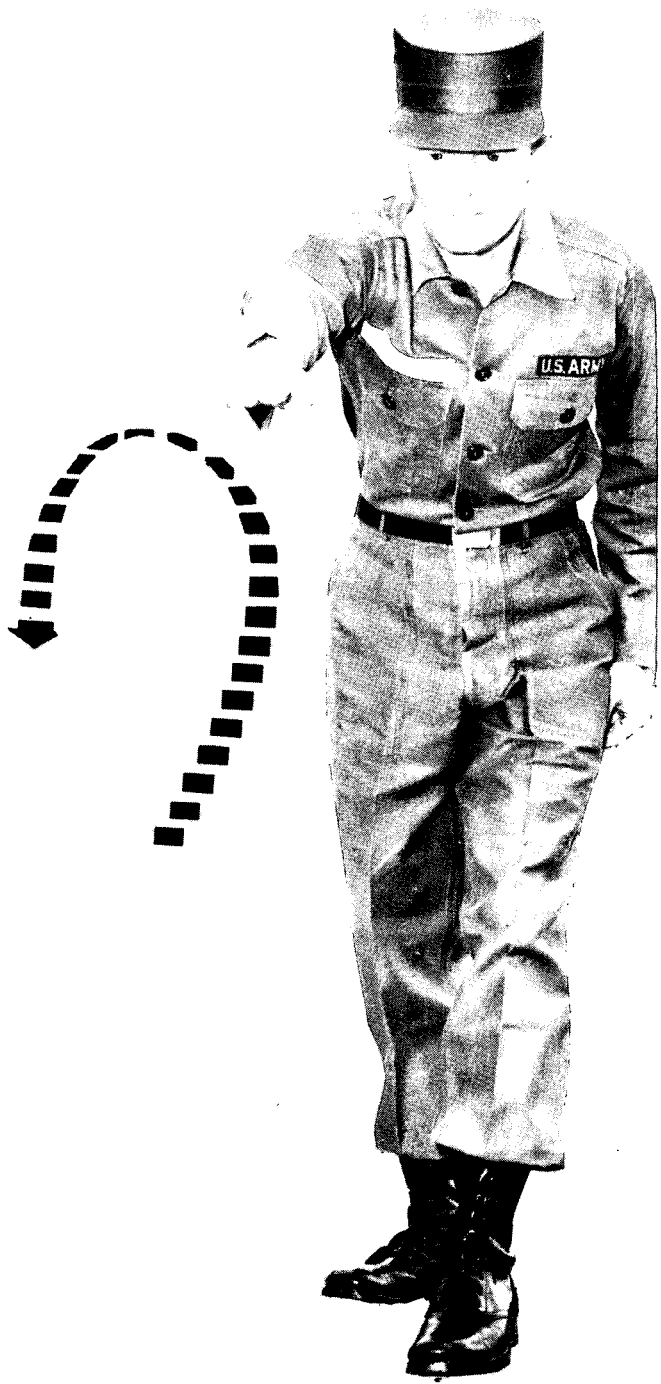
- (1) Practice in staying should be started in the down position

since this is the easiest one for the dog to maintain. The 5-foot leash is used for teaching STAY. Each handler gives his dog the command DOWN. When the dog has obeyed, the handler backs away slowly. As he does so he watches the dog attentively, uses the gesture shown in figure 17, and repeats the command STAY, in a stern voice, drawing out the word to cover his retreat. The handler reaches the end of the leash, always keeping his eyes on the dog, and alert for the first sign that the dog is about to get up or break away. (If there is evidence that the dog is not going to stay, the handler goes back to the dog, motions him down, and repeats the command, STAY, STAY.) If the dog attempts to come to the handler at the command STAY, the handler commands NO—STAY, and returns the dog to the spot where he first received the command STAY. He moves away from the dog again, then walks back toward him, passes on his left side, walks behind the dog, turns around, and stands in position with the dog lying at his left side. During this movement the handler must repeatedly command STAY, STAY in a soothing voice. Finally, he gives his dog the command SIT and, when the dog obeys, praises and pats him.

- (2) After this exercise has been successfully completed by all handlers under the supervision of the instructor (assistant), the squad is ordered to march around the training square with the dogs at heel, before being lined up for a repetition of the exercise. Each time this exercise is repeated, the instructor (assistant) should keep the dogs in the stay position a little longer before sending their handlers back to them.

*b. Stay (Dog in Sitting Position).* The handler trains his dog to stay in a sitting position by the procedure described in *a* above. He should augment his first command to stay with the command gesture shown in figure 18. He alternates practice in staying in the sit and down positions until the dog is able to stay in both positions.

*c. Stay (Silent Tie-Up).* The handler fastens the dog to a post or stake with the kennel chain. He then walks away for a short distance, remaining in sight of the dog. If the dog starts to whine or bark, the handler reproves him with a sharp NO, comes up to him and quiets him. When the animal has remained quiet for about a minute, the handler releases him and rewards him. The length of time that the dog remains tied is gradually increased. As the dog adjusts himself, the handler goes out of sight. Later, the leash is substituted for the chain and the trainer stations himself where



*Figure 15. Command gesture for DOWN.*





Figure 16. Dog in down position.

he can watch closely, for if the dog once bites through a leash, he may become a confirmed "leather cutter."

## Section VIII. COME (ON LEASH)

### 74. Standard of Performance

After the dog has learned to obey the command STAY, the handler teaches him COME. With the dog in a STAY position, the handler calls his name, immediately adding the command COME (fig. 19). The dog must promptly come to the heel position and sit.

### 75. Training Procedure

*a. Initial Exercise.* The handler commands DOWN—STAY. He then backs away to the end of the 5-foot leash. After the dog has obeyed the command and is staying in the down position, the handler calls the dog's name, following it with the command COME. At the same time, he tugs slightly on the leash to suggest the meaning of the command and gives the command gesture shown in figure 20. He then changes the end of the leash to the right hand and gives the oral command HEEL. At the same time he steps back-

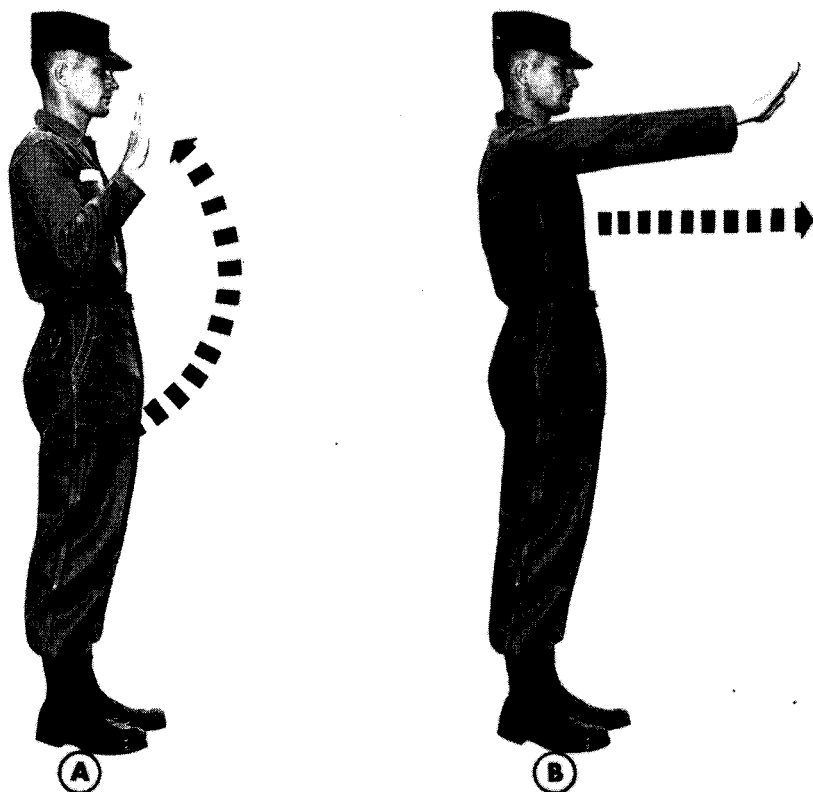


Figure 17. Command gesture for *STAY* when handler is away from dog.

wards a full step with the left foot, grasps the leash with the left hand at a point near the middle and guides the dog to the heel position. When the dog reaches the heel position the handler recovers to the position of attention and commands *SIT*. He then praises and pats the dog.

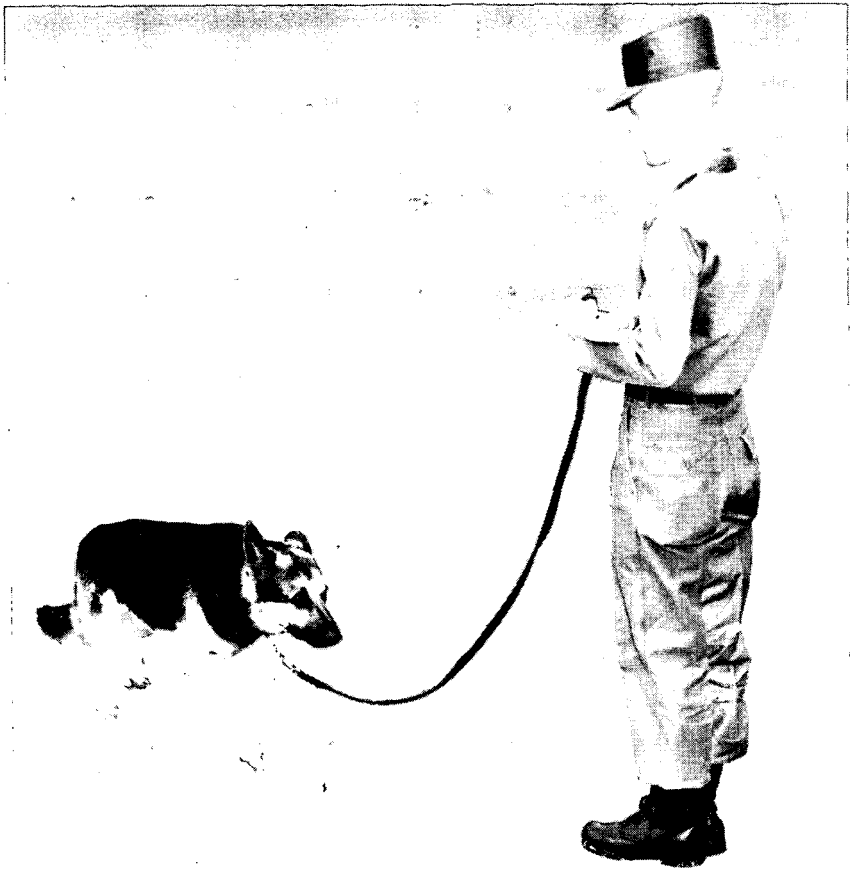
*b. Advanced Exercises.*

- (1) The handler uses a 25-foot leash. He proceeds as described in *a* above, gradually backing away from the dog until he has reached the end of the leash (fig. 21). He calls the dog, preceding the command *COME* with the dog's name, making sure that he holds the dog's attention. If the dog starts sniffing the ground or turns away to watch another dog, the handler immediately jerks the leash and repeats the command *COME* in a stern voice. If necessary, he may pull the dog all the way to him.
- (2) After a few days, all of the dogs in the squad will be able to carry out the command without difficulty. The instructor (assistant) then separates the handlers by 50 or 60



*Figure 18. Command gesture for STAY when handler is with dog.*

feet and instructs them to proceed, as follows: The dogs are allowed to wander around at the full length of the leash, sniffing and smelling as they please. At intervals of 1 or 2 minutes, each handler calls his dog by name and commands COME. If the dog does not come promptly, he tugs on the leash. If necessary, he jerks the leash at intervals and induces the dog to come by voice. As soon as the dog is within touching distance, his handler pats and praises him and then allows him to wander away again. It may be necessary, at first, to encourage the dog to go



*Figure 19. Dog comes to handler when called.*

off by playing with him and pushing him. As soon as the dog starts to wander away, the handler indicates approval by saying "OK." The dog will come to realize that this is a signal of release; that it means he is on his own and can romp and sniff as he chooses. In calling the dog, the tone of voice should be authoritative, but never cross. When the dog comes, he should be praised, never punished—even if he has been pulled by the leash for the entire distance.

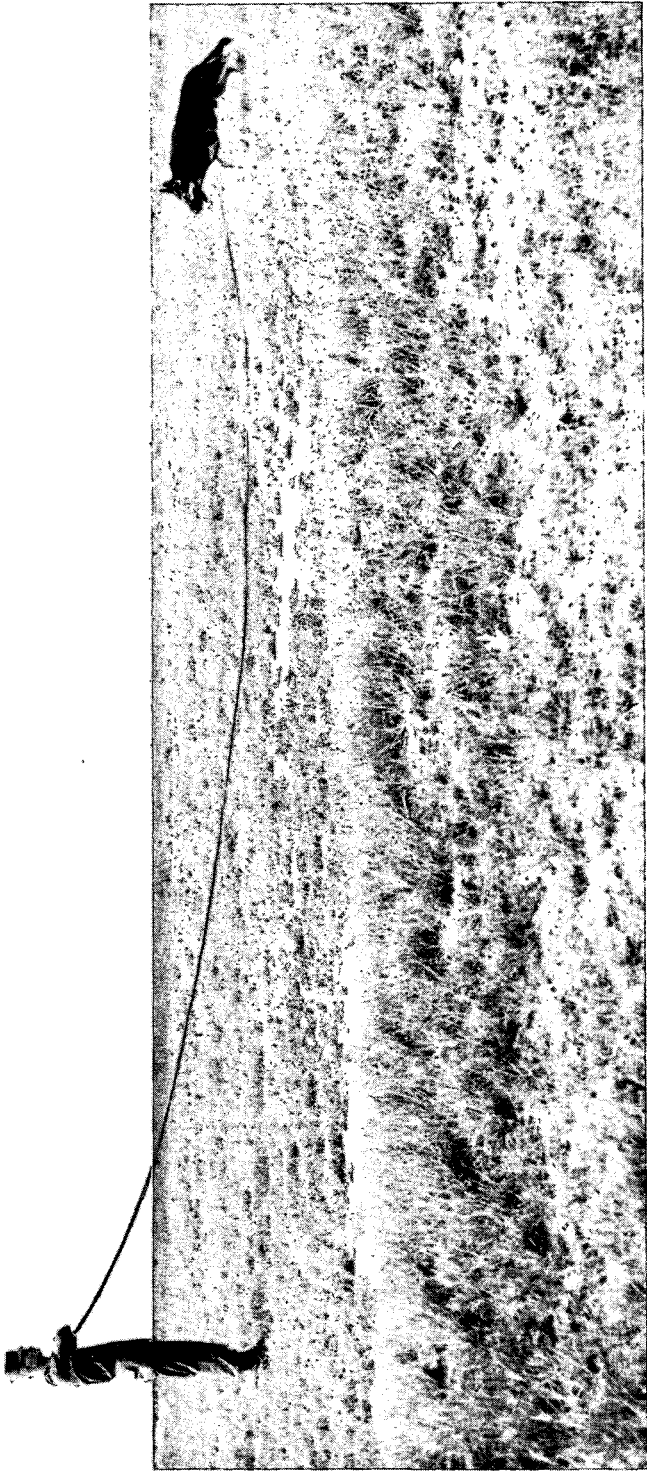
## Section IX. CRAWL (ON LEASH)

### 76. Standard of Performance

At the command CRAWL, the dog crawls alongside or toward his master. This movement may prove valuable if a scout dog comes under enemy fire or observation.



*Figure 20. Command gesture for COME.*



*Figure 21. Use of 25-foot leash for practice in COME.*

## 77. Training Procedure

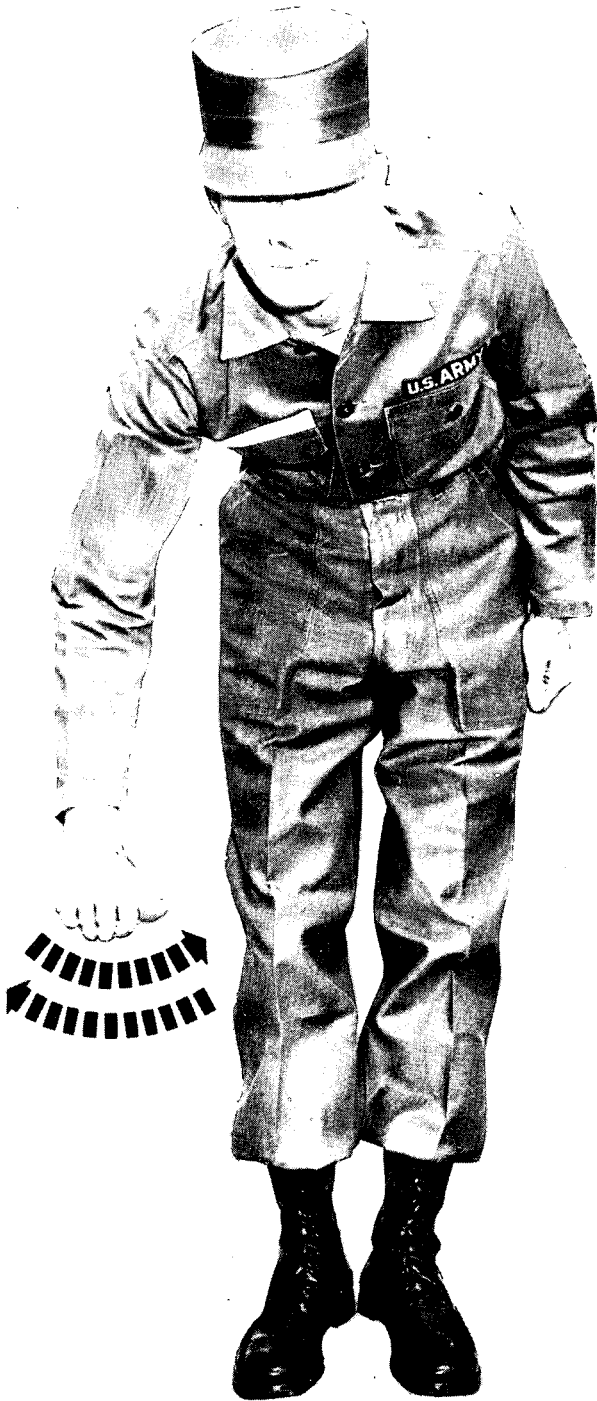
The leash is held closely by the handler who commands DOWN and lies down himself. Then he commands CRAWL, and starts to crawl himself, encouraging the dog to do likewise (fig. 22). He can use the leash to correct the dog. After the dog has learned to crawl with the handler, he is taught to crawl alone. The handler walks alongside the dog as shown in figure 23. If the dog tries to rise, the handler may push down on his shoulders and, at the same



*Figure 22. Handler crawling with dog.*



*Figure 23. Dog crawling on command.*



*Figure 24. Command gesture for CRAWL.*



time, command NO—CRAWL. For the next stage of the exercise, the handler stands erect, facing the dog at a distance of a few feet, and commands DOWN, then CRAWL, to get the dog to crawl to him. At the same time, he uses the command gesture for CRAWL (fig. 24). When the dog becomes proficient in this exercise, the distance between dog and handler is gradually increased.

## Section X. JUMP (ON LEASH)

### 78. Standard of Performance

Almost any dog can and will jump or scale a 3½-foot wall. The objective of this training exercise is to get him to jump on command, and ahead of the handler (fig. 25). At the command UP, the dog must immediately jump or scale the wall and then heel or return to the handler, according to the handler's position. (A dog *jumps* a low hurdle or fence, which means that he clears it. He *scales* a higher hurdle or wall, which means that he jumps as high as he can, then scrambles or climbs the rest of the distance in order to get over.)

### 79. Training Procedure

#### a. *Initial Exercise.*

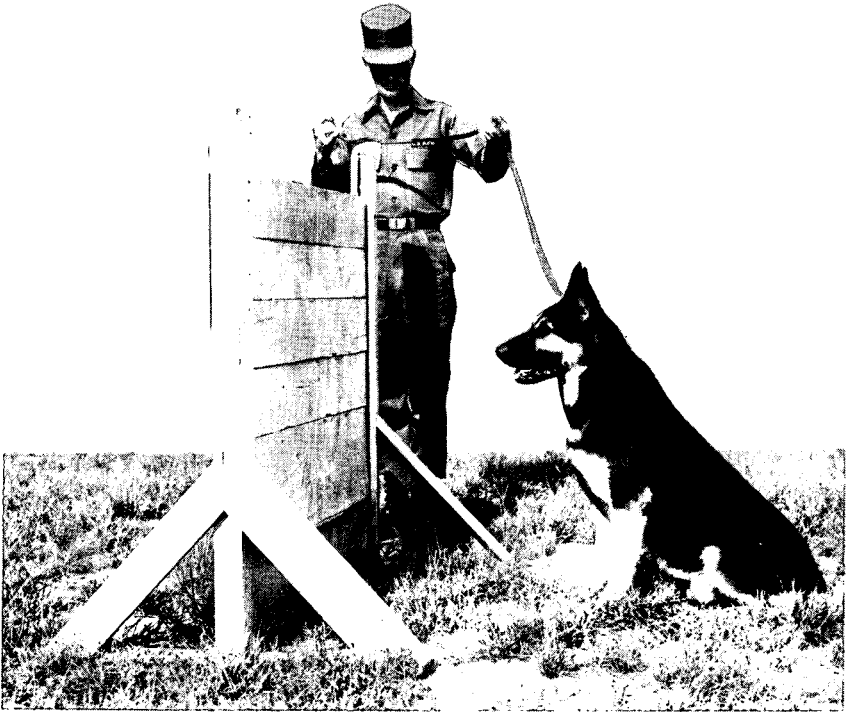
- (1) A dog may be afraid of a hurdle, even though he may have been taught to jump hedges or other obstacles. Therefore, it is well to start this training with a hurdle that has removable boards, removing all the boards except the two bottom ones so that the hurdle is low enough to walk over.
- (2) The instructor (assistant) instructs members of the squad to heel their dogs around a small square. He directs one handler at a time, starting with the handler at the head of the column, to lead his dog over the hurdle. Each man steps over the hurdle and, as he does so, gives his dog the command UP. If the dog hesitates or balks, the handler coaxes and helps his dog over, tugging on the leash. As the dog gets to the other side, the handler immediately praises him, steps away from the hurdle, and commands HEEL. This exercise should be repeated as often as necessary to make every dog in the group comply with the command. Those dogs that learn more readily than others are kept in the line with the slow learners throughout the training period, because it is desirable for backward dogs to see them go over the hurdle successfully.

*b. Advanced Exercises.*

- (1) When all the dogs have succeeded in clearing the hurdle at its initial height, it is raised, one board at a time, and the jumping exercise is repeated. By the time the second board is inserted into the hurdle, every dog should be so proficient in the execution of the command UP that it will not be necessary for the handler to go over the hurdle with him. Instead, he goes around the right side of the hurdle with his left hand extended, holding the middle of the leash to keep it from catching on the hurdle. As he does so, he gives the command UP. As the dog's neck clears the hurdle, he releases the left-hand hold on the leash, but continues to hold the end in his right hand.
- (2) Exercises in jumping from a sitting position are also undertaken, as follows: The hurdle is at moderate height. The handler walks up to the hurdle with his dog heeling on the leash. Stopping about two feet in front of the



*Figure 25. Dog jumping training hurdle.*



*Figure 26. Position of dog and handler for sitting jump.*

hurdle, he makes his dog sit, then gives the command UP (fig. 26). The handler walks around the right side of the hurdle holding the middle of the leash in his left hand, which is extended to permit the dog to jump freely. As the dog lands on the other side, the handler praises him, commands HEEL, and walks to his place in line. After every dog has gone over the hurdle, more height may be added and the exercise repeated.

- (3) Jumping, properly taught, is an exercise which raises the dog's spirits, and can be interspersed with depressing exercises such as DOWN. Jumping should include a variety of obstacles such as hedges, ditches, water, and walls.

## **80. Excessive Jumping**

Practice in jumping should not be overdone in any period. Although dogs enjoy it, it is very tiring. Other exercises may be practiced as alternates to jumping when the dogs show signs of fatigue.

## Section XI. OFF-LEASH EXERCISES (GENERAL)

### 81. Training Procedure

When the instructor (assistant) observes that the dogs in a squad are working dependably on a loose leash, he starts the handlers in training them off-leash. To begin with, he may select only the dogs that are doing the best work to form a special class in off-leash training. Other classes are added until, finally, all dogs are working off the leash. Dogs that do not perform dependably are given extra training periods so that the training of the other dogs will not be delayed. Dogs are muzzled at the beginning of off-leash training to reduce the likelihood of dogfights.

### 82. Training Methods

*a.* Training the dog to work off the leash follows the same procedure as that described for working on the leash. During all off-leash work, the handler depends on the tone of his voice and on command gestures to direct his dog, as well as the affection which has been established between him and his dog, and the attitude of obedience learned by the dog. Nevertheless, the handler must be alert in noticing any hesitancy on the part of the dog to comply with his commands and must be able to prevent his dog from breaking or getting out of position. Once a dog has found that he can break control it will take a long time to make him dependable off the leash. When a dog disobeys or breaks away, he should be put on the leash immediately and made to successfully perform the exercises on the leash until the instructor decides that it is safe to take him off the leash again.

*b.* Even after the dogs have advanced to specialized work, each training period should begin with a few minutes' exercise heeling off the leash. The ability to perform off the leash correctly and dependably is fundamental to all specialized training.

## Section XII. HEEL (OFF LEASH)

### 83. Standard of Performance

A dog must be able to follow his handler at heel on straight walks, alone, and through groups of people, and through right and left turns and about face, with the handler using only the oral command and command gesture for HEEL.



*Figure 27. Heeling off leash.*

#### **84. Training Procedure**

The procedure is the same as that described in paragraph 65, except that the handler corrects the dog only with the oral command **HEEL** and the command gesture for **HEEL**. See also figure 27.

## Section XIII. SIT (OFF LEASH)

### 85. Standard of Performance

See paragraph 67.

### 86. Training Procedure

When the dog has mastered sitting exercises on a loose leash, the instructor has the handlers remove the leash and begin training in the command SIT off leash. The dog is trained to sit in the heel position first, then is practiced in sitting from the standing and down positions. The command gesture for sit from the standing and down positions off leash is given with a sharp upward motion of the arm while each handler is standing in front of and directly facing his dog (fig. 28). The distance between handler and dog is gradually increased as the dog becomes more proficient in the exercises.

## Section XIV. DOWN (OFF LEASH)

### 87. Standard of Performance

See paragraph 69.

### 88. Training Procedure

With the dog in a stay position at a distance of 50 feet or more, the handler calls the dog's name, following it with the command COME. Before the dog reaches him, he gives the commands STAY, DOWN, STAY or gives the command gestures, or does both. The dog responds promptly to each successive command, stopping at once regardless of his gait, dropping promptly to the down position, and staying in that position until his handler gives him a new command. He must learn to respond to both the oral commands and the gestures used alone.

*a. Prerequisite.* Group work in this exercise is started only when all the dogs in the squad perform satisfactorily in the STAY and COME exercises off the leash.

*b. Organization.* The handlers and dogs form a line facing the instructor (assistant), with an interval of about 10 to 15 feet between handlers. At the direction of the instructor, each handler faces his dog and proceeds as outlined in *c* below.

*c. Methods.*

- (1) The handler commands DOWN and STAY, turns and walks away to a distance of about 25 feet, and turns to



*Figure 28. Command gesture for SIT.*

face the dog. He calls the dog's name and adds the command COME. When the dog is within 10 feet of him, he gives the commands STAY, DOWN, STAY in a firm voice, accompanied by the command gestures, giving the dog time to respond to each command. As he gives the first STAY, he takes a step or two toward the dog. At first, he may have to repeat the oral commands and the gestures several times. He may even have to approach the dog and make him assume the down position.

- (2) With the dog staying in the down position, the handler calls him by name and commands COME. As soon as the dog obeys, he commands HEEL, praises him, and walks him back to the starting point to repeat the exercise. After the dog has learned to drop instantly on command, the handler varies the distances between them for succeeding repetitions of the exercise. As the dog becomes more and more proficient and dependable in this exercise, the handler uses gestures and oral commands independently so that the dog learns to respond to each alone.
- (3) This exercise is depressing to the dog's spirit and must not be repeated too often in succession.

## Section XV. STAY (OFF LEASH)

### 89. Standard of Performance

At the command STAY-DOWN-STAY, STAY-SIT-STAY, or STAY, which may be given at any gait, the dog must promptly assume the position called for while the handler continues ahead. The dog must remain in this position until the handler either returns to him or commands COME.

### 90. Training Procedure

a. There are two prerequisites to this training—

- (1) The dog must be able to heel off-leash.
- (2) The dog must respond to the command COME from the end of the 25-foot leash.

b. The handler must be able to influence obedience in the dog by his general attitude, by the tone and timbre of his voice, and by command gestures.

c. The training for the fundamental exercise off-leash follows the same procedure as for the STAY exercise on-leash (par. 73).

d. The second step is to make the dog stay in position on com-



mand given during walking exercises. With the entire squad under the direction of the instructor (assistant), the handlers start walking their dogs at heel. When signaled to do so, each handler commands STAY, reaches down and places his left hand in front of the dog's nose to halt him (fig. 18). He repeats the command STAY, making a backward motion with his left hand, and turns slightly to watch the dog. When the dog halts, the handler walks on about 10 feet further, turns around, and faces the dog. After an interval, he returns to his dog, and commands SIT. This exercise is repeated several times. Periods of heeling are conducted to break the monotony. As the dog becomes more and more dependable, the handler may increase the distance between them after giving the command STAY.

e. When all the dogs in the group can be made to stay in their positions while their handlers continue walking, they are ready for the last stage of the STAY training. This is an exercise to teach the dogs to remain in a stay position while their handlers are out of sight. Under the supervision of the instructor (assistant), each handler commands his dog DOWN, STAY, then walks about 25 yards away to a previously arranged hiding place. The scaling hurdle makes a good screen for this purpose, because the handler can look through the cracks between the boards and watch his dog. If the dog starts to rise or break, his handler should come out from his hiding place, advance slowly to the dog, speak to him sternly, and put him back in place. He then returns to hiding. The instructor (assistant) uses his judgment as to the length of time the handlers are to remain hidden. At the start, he waits only a few seconds before directing the handler back to his dog. As the exercise is repeated, the time he remains out of the dog's sight is increased until the dog will stay in either the sit, stand, or down position indefinitely with his handler out of sight.

## Section XVI. COME (OFF LEASH)

### 91. Standard of Performance

See paragraph 74.

### 92. Training Procedure

a. The handler follows the procedure described in paragraph 75b (2) with the following differences. He attaches the 25-foot leash to the dog's collar and lays the leash loosely along the ground in front of the dog. He does *not* hold onto the leash when he starts the exercises. He practices the dog in COME two or three times

from a distance of a few feet. After the dog has responded promptly several times, the handler casually and unhurriedly un-hooks the leash from the dog's collar and lays that end on the ground. Then he again practices the dog in COME several times, varying the distance between dog and handler from 5 to 10 feet. After the dog responds rather consistently at this range, the distance is gradually increased until the dog will come on command or gesture from any distance up to 100 yards.

b. If the dog becomes disobedient at any time during the foregoing exercises, the handler should put him on leash again as a corrective measure and make him go through several repetitions of COME.

## Section XVII. JUMP (OFF LEASH)

### 93. Standard of Performance

See paragraph 78.

### 94. Training Procedure

When all the dogs in the group have demonstrated ability to take the full-height hurdle while on the leash, they are ready to be trained in jumping over or scaling hurdles and other obstacles while off the leash (fig. 29). The hurdle is heightened gradually. When the dog is able to get over the hurdle at its full height and to return to position as commanded, practice may be undertaken in jumping over or scaling other obstacles. Practice in jumping exercises should not be overdone in any one period.

## Section XVIII. ACCUSTOMING DOG TO MUZZLE AND GAS MASK

### 95. General

Dogs are trained to wear a muzzle and a gas mask after they have learned to heel on leash. The equipment should fit the dog snugly and comfortably. Accustoming the dog to this new equipment depends entirely on patience and practice.

### 96. Muzzle

After adjusting the muzzle on the dog (fig. 30), the handler starts heeling him at a fast walk on leash. If the dog tries to reach up with a front paw and pull off the muzzle, the handler jerks upward with the leash and keeps on walking, holding the leash taut. As soon as the dog stops trying to remove the muzzle, the handler slackens the leash and praises him.

## 97. Gas Mask

After the dog becomes accustomed to wearing a muzzle, he is trained to wear a gas mask (fig. 31). The first time the mask is used, the dog must not be made to move fast enough to cause him to pant.



*Figure 29. Off-leash jumping.*



*Figure 30. Muzzled dog.*



*Figure 31. Dog wearing gas mask.*

## CHAPTER 4

### SPECIALIZED TRAINING

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#### Section I. SCREENING FOR SPECIALIZED TRAINING

##### 98. Screening Procedure

The term "screening" refers to the procedure used to classify dogs for the type of military service for which they seem best qualified. This classification is based on observation of the physical and psychological traits manifested by the dogs from the time they are given the tests on arrival at reception and training centers (pars. 14-18), throughout the basic training period, and even after they have begun specialized training. It is imperative to continue observing the dogs throughout the training program. The potentialities of some dogs and inherent weaknesses of others may come to light as unexpectedly as in the case of human beings. The dogs are observed by a classification board consisting of the commanding officer and selected instructors. On the basis of physical and psychological traits manifested, the board may reject a dog at any time during training. The screening procedure is shown graphically in figure 32.

##### 99. Selection for Type of Specialized Training

*a.* The classification board has the responsibility for deciding which dogs will be trained as scouts and which will be trained for sentry duty. The selection is based on consideration of the demonstrated qualities of an individual dog as measured against the requirements for the two types of duty. Scouting makes more demands on a dog's intelligence and temperament than sentry duty. Normally, therefore, the dogs that qualify best in the desirable traits (par. 102) are selected for scout training; the others are given sentry training (par. 113).

*b.* During the course of scout training, a dog may show that he is not, after all, suitable for scouting. He may be transferred to sentry training. A dog that shows during specialized training that he is unsuitable for sentry duty is rejected.

*c.* The high standards set in *a* and *b* above may be tempered when necessary to match the available supply of dogs with military requirements.

## Section II. PRINCIPLES OF SPECIALIZED TRAINING

### 100. General

Basic dog training, as an end in itself, has no place in the military service. It serves simply, but necessarily, to develop in dogs the behavior that is essential to efficient and effective training for specific military functions. A dog that successfully completes basic training is disciplined and prepared to receive instruction in military duties. Furthermore, his behavior during basic training, if properly observed, is an indication of the type of specialized training for which he is best suited.

### 101. Statement of Principles

The effectiveness of specialized dog training depends on the regard shown for the following fundamental principles:

*a. The Dog Must be Trained for Only One Job.* He may learn to be a good scout or sentry dog, but never both. Because of his natural limitations, any effort to train him for more than one job will diminish the contribution he can make.

*b. The General Attitude of the Handler is All-Important.* A handler must fully realize the importance of the work that he is doing. He must understand and appreciate the fact that dogs are used to conserve manpower, conserve life, and to further the work of the military service through the use of their peculiar powers.

*c. The Importance of the Handler-Dog Relationship Cannot be Overestimated.* The dog and his handler must work as a team. Therefore, no handler must be forced to train an animal that he deems unsuitable. For the same reason, if a dog appears unwilling to serve a certain handler, it may be necessary to assign him to another. On the other hand, once a team has been established, the relationship must not be interfered with by anyone. Only the handler should pet, feed, or otherwise handle his dog.

*d. Association of Ideas Facilitates Learning.* Where special equipment is used, the dog must learn to associate this equipment with his work.

*e. The Dog Should be Motivated Not Only by His Handler's Praise and Petting, But Also by the Goal of Accomplishing a Mission.* The dog can and should be trained to complete a task as an end in itself, not simply for the sake of reward by his master. In all his training, therefore, he must be permitted to finish every exercise successfully, no matter how many errors he makes. *The dog must always "WIN."*

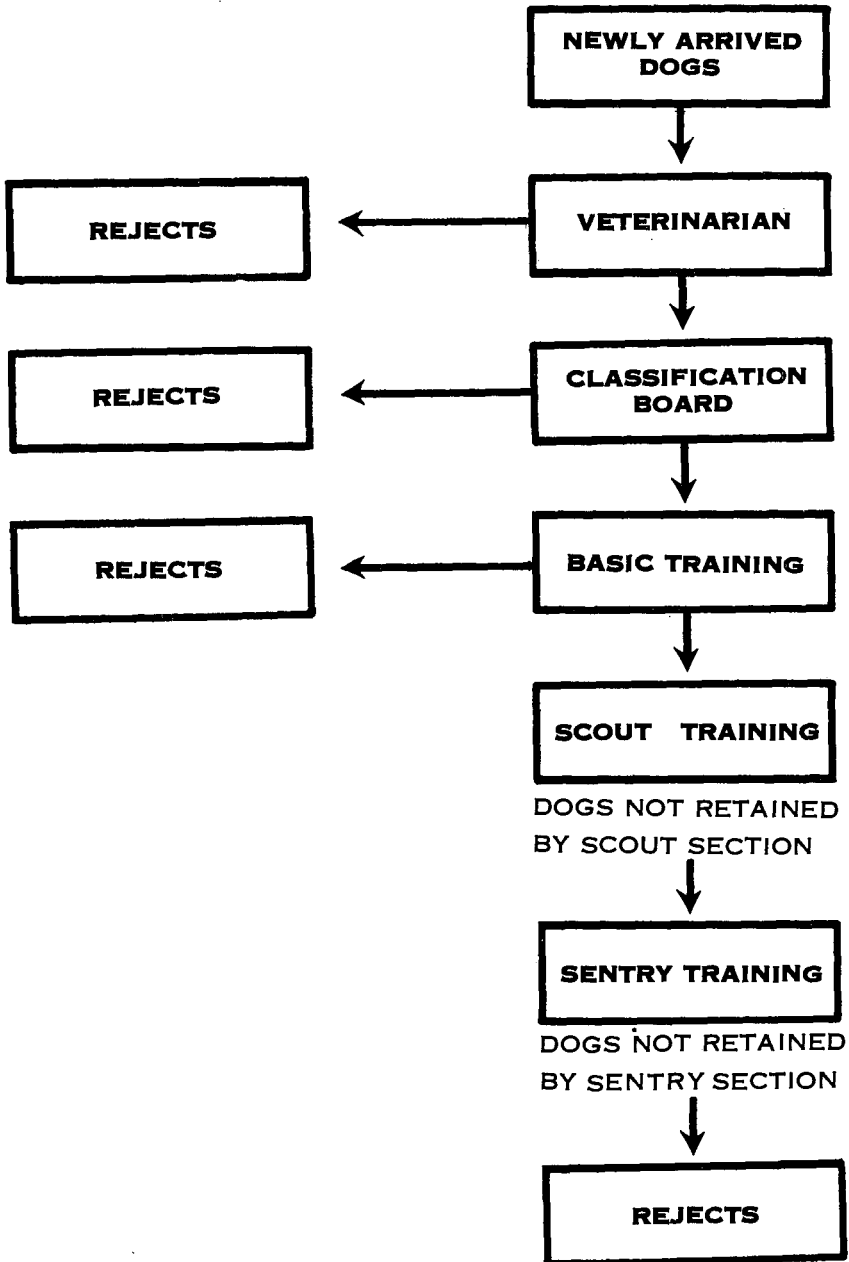


Figure 32. Screening procedure flow chart.



*f. Conduct Training Over Varying Terrain and in the Face of Gunfire and Other Distractions to Develop the Dog's Responsibility for Given Tasks and to Assure the Accomplishment of His Mission.*

*g. The Ability of The Dog is Developed by Training During Daylight.* The effects of daylight training will carry over into actual service at night. Training is difficult to conduct in darkness because the handler cannot see well enough to observe the dog's errors and correct them. But the dog can carry over into night performance the effects of good daylight training. The dog and handler must be proficient in daylight training before any training at night is attempted.

*h. Review of Previous Training Maintains and Raises the Level of Performance.* Handlers must use their best judgment in determining how often and how many times previously learned exercises should be repeated.

*i. Successful Training of Military Dogs Depends on the Care Taken for Their Welfare.* Unless the dogs are kept in good health, properly groomed, fed, and kenneled, the effectiveness of the training program will be diminished.

### Section III. THE SCOUT DOG

#### 102. Selection of Scout Dog

*a.* To be suitable for scout training, dogs should possess the desirable traits in the following degrees. (See also pars. 7-11.):

- (1) Intelligence: High.
- (2) Willingness: High.
- (3) Aggressiveness: Moderate.
- (4) Sensitivity: Medium.
- (5) Energy: High.

*b.* The scout dog should be a sharp, hardy animal of medium size. He must have highly developed scenting powers, acute hearing, and a good ability to detect motion. He must not be overly excitable or noisy. It is not necessary for him to have great speed.

#### 103. Uses of Scout Dogs

*a.* The scout dog is trained to detect and give silent warning of the presence of any strange individual or group. He will prove especially useful in warning of ambushes and attempts at infiltration. The scout dog is worked by one man, the handler, who has been especially trained in this type of work. The dog works on a short or long leash, in daylight or darkness, in any kind of weather,

and in jungle or open country. He is aware of and gives silent warning of the presence of unfamiliar humans and animals long before they can be detected by a human. The distance at which he can give warning depends on a number of factors—wind direction and velocity; the volume of concentration of human scent; humidity; density or openness of terrain; and the amount of noise or other confusing factors in the vicinity. The handler's ability in "reading" his dog is an important factor in their operations together.

b. When possible, the scout dog platoon leader should know two or three days in advance the number and type of patrols he is required to support. This permits him to select the dog-handler team which will be most effective for each mission and gives the handler enough time to prepare himself and his dog for the mission.

c. The scout dog may be employed in various ways.

(1) *Reconnaissance patrols.*

- (a) Before reporting for patrol duty, the handler should test the dog's alertness and readiness for work by leading him through a 15-minute period of basic obedience exercises. If, for any reason, the dog is unsatisfactory at duty time, another dog or another team should be selected and used, even if the new dog has not rehearsed with the patrol.
- (b) The dog and handler should be completely integrated into the patrol during the planning, rehearsal, and execution phases; and the handler must attend the debriefing phase. During the planning phase, the handler makes recommendations to the patrol leader for the employment of the dog. The patrol leader allows the handler enough flexibility to work the dog in the most effective manner.
- (c) The presence of a scout dog in a patrol creates varied reactions among personnel unfamiliar with scout dogs. Some members of the patrol may feel an exaggerated sense of security, while others may become apprehensive. To avert these extreme reactions, the handler should brief the patrol before rehearsals as to the dog's mission and capabilities. Rehearsals enable the patrol members to become familiar with the way the dog and handler operate and also accustom the dog to the scents of the individual patrol members and the noises and actions of the patrol on the move.
- (d) The dog and handler report to the assembly position at least one hour before the patrol's scheduled time of de-

parture. This time leeway is necessary for final coordination, orientation of new patrol members as to the dog and his capabilities, and for familiarizing the dog with the scent of all patrol members.

- (e) The dog and handler precede the patrol at a distance which will permit immediate communication with the patrol leader. At night, this distance may be an arm's length; in daylight, the distance is greater, but within easy visual signaling distance.
  - (f) The scout dog and handler move forward, keeping generally in the assigned direction, utilizing cover, and moving so as best to take advantage of wind and other conditions favoring the dog's sense of smell and hearing. The patrol leader may from time to time change the direction of the patrol's advance; in general, it is advisable for the dog and handler to move at will forward of the patrol.
  - (g) One member of the patrol should be assigned the mission of protecting the handler and dog. When a scout dog is following a scent, the handler needs both hands and all his strength to control him. For this reason, the handler should be armed with a .45 caliber pistol only.
  - (h) As soon as the dog warns of a hostile presence, the handler passes the information to the patrol by signaling "enemy in sight," whereupon the patrol leader at once causes his patrol to take cover or halt. The patrol leader goes quietly, taking advantage of all available cover, to the scout dog and handler (fig. 33). The handler briefs the patrol leader on what the team has located. The patrol leader then takes the necessary action. He may proceed in a new direction or circle around the danger spot, preceded as before by the scout dog and handler.
  - (i) A patrol accompanied by a dog and handler must be impressed with the fact that all members must maintain their usual patrol alertness and not rely solely on the dog.
- (2) *Combat patrol.*
- (a) The working procedure for the handler-scout dog team is the same as for a reconnaissance patrol except that after the handler has given the patrol leader the definite location of the enemy, the dog and handler immediately retire to the rear or a flank position so as not to interfere with any action undertaken by the patrol.

- (b) If speed of movement is more essential than security, the dog and handler may not be used at the point position until relatively close to the objective. After the patrol removes enemy opposition, it may continue its mission, preceded as before by the scout dog and handler.
  - (c) If the handler becomes a casualty and his dog will permit him to be evacuated, this should be done. The dog will follow his master. If the dog will not allow anyone to assist the handler, the dog should be destroyed.
- (3) *Outposts.*
- (a) In an outpost position, the main value of the scout dog is to give timely warning of enemy approach or attempts at infiltration of friendly lines. The dog and handler are placed a short distance forward of the outpost to which they are attached, within easy range of visual signals in daylight, and even closer at night.



*Figure 33. Scout dog on patrol.*

- (b) It is imperative to devise a communication system between the dog handler and the outpost commander. At night a cord can be laid between the two positions and the handler can give it a jerk to alert the outpost.
  - (c) After the dog detects an enemy and his handler notifies the outpost, the dog and handler should withdraw to a previously designated position or, if they are in a prepared position, they should remain under cover, so they will not be endangered by outpost and enemy fires.
- (4) *Night attacks.* Scout dogs may be used to locate enemy security elements during night attacks. They will normally be employed with the leading elements of the attack and operate in the same manner as on a patrol. On completing its mission of detection, the dog-handler team moves to a position of security.

#### 104. Equipment for Scout Training

The handler will need a chain choke collar, a 5-foot and 25-foot leash, and a scout harness. Leather collars and kennel chains may be needed to tether dogs that are not working.

#### 105. Basic Training Required

a. Before a dog starts scout training, he must be able to heel closely, off leash, and respond independently to both oral commands and command gestures for Down, Stay, Sit, Come, Jump, and Crawl. He must also be accustomed to riding in vehicles and to the sound of gunfire.

b. The handler must have a thorough working knowledge of winds and scents and of his dog's working peculiarities.

#### 106. Training Conditions

a. *Functions of Handler.* The handler must learn to read and understand his dog so that he can interpret his every signal with regard to the approach or presence of the enemy.

b. *Functions of Assistant.* The assistant acts as a decoy.

c. *Location.* Training starts in the regular training area. At the beginning, the decoy should not always conceal himself behind a screen such as a tree, rock, or bush. If, on the first three or four scouting runs, the dog finds the decoy concealed behind some natural cover, he will associate such spots with his discovery of the decoy and will consequently rely on his inferior eyesight to find him. He will not use his nose and ears, which are the senses he must learn to depend on. Training locations must be changed daily

so that the dog does not learn to associate the decoy with a given area.

*d. Time.* Although a scout dog is generally used at night, he must be trained mostly during the daytime. The instructor decides when a dog and handler have completed enough daytime training and are ready for exercises at night.

## 107. Wind and Scent

*a. General.* The wind is probably the most important and, at the same time, the most variable factor a handler has to contend with in employing a scout dog to the best advantage. It is the wind that carries the all-important human scent to the dog—or away from him. A handler must therefore always be wind-conscious. He should learn all he can about wind “habits,” and he should be able to feel or sense what direction the wind is blowing at any time without having to rely on such expedients as dropping dust or a handful of hair from his dog’s back and noting its direction of drift. If a handler keeps track of the wind and his dog gives an alert, he knows that there is only one general direction to look for the enemy. The only exception to this occurs when the dog gives a sight or sound alert. Usually, a handler can distinguish this type of alert from close familiarity with his dog’s reactions, if not from his own sense of sight or hearing.

*b. Effects of Topography on Wind.* Wind hitting a hilltop or the crest of a hill is prone to break into two or three smaller streams. A small table top mesa is probably the worst place for a dog to try to find a hidden man. Scents borne by the wind off a mesa may be scattered, blown aloft, or die before they come in contact with ground level. A dog may pick up a scent far from a mesa only to lose it once he comes close because it is being blown over his head. Mountains, gorges, buttes, breaks, valleys, and timberlines will all cause the wind to sweep and swirl. Thus, the only wind that will blow with any steadiness is that which comes over a flat and even surface.

### *c. Impermanence of Scent.*

- (1) Human scent dissipates more rapidly in a hot and dry climate than it does in an area where there is quite a bit of moisture. Heat from the sun causes scents to evaporate rather rapidly. During rains, scents remain close to their source.
- (2) Human scents from foxholes become borne by the wind because scents rise as they evaporate. These scents are not as strong as those from men in the open.

- (3) Dogs have a difficult time scenting in a grove or forest of pine trees where there is always a carpet of pine needles covering the ground.

## 108. Quartering

*a.* Quartering is the method the handler and his dog use to search a piece of terrain, taking full advantage of the wind, to locate any enemy that may be present. Scents borne by the wind may be elusive. Sometimes the dog can detect them from one spot whereas, from another spot just as close to the source of the scent, he may receive no odor at all. Therefore, to give the dog every opportunity to pick up an enemy scent, the handler must lead him systematically over a fair-sized area so that every breeze can pass through his nose.

*b.* Figure 34 shows a quartering course layout for training. The instructor lays out the course and selects the starting point downwind from the decoy. The handler and dog proceed through the course as diagrammed. Point A represents the spot where the dog first alerts to a weak scent. The handler can then elect to further quarter the course or let the dog follow the weak scent directly to point B where the dog should give a strong alert. From this point, the handler lets the dog move in and find the decoy.

*c.* Figure 35 shows schematically how a handler and dog would quarter an area in the field to search out an enemy. At point A the dog alerts. Based on his knowledge of the dog, the handler knows that the alert at point A is a weak one. The team continues to quarter, as shown, and the dog gives another weak alert at point B. At point C the handler receives a strong alert and turns his dog in the direction of the wind which is in the direction of the enemy.

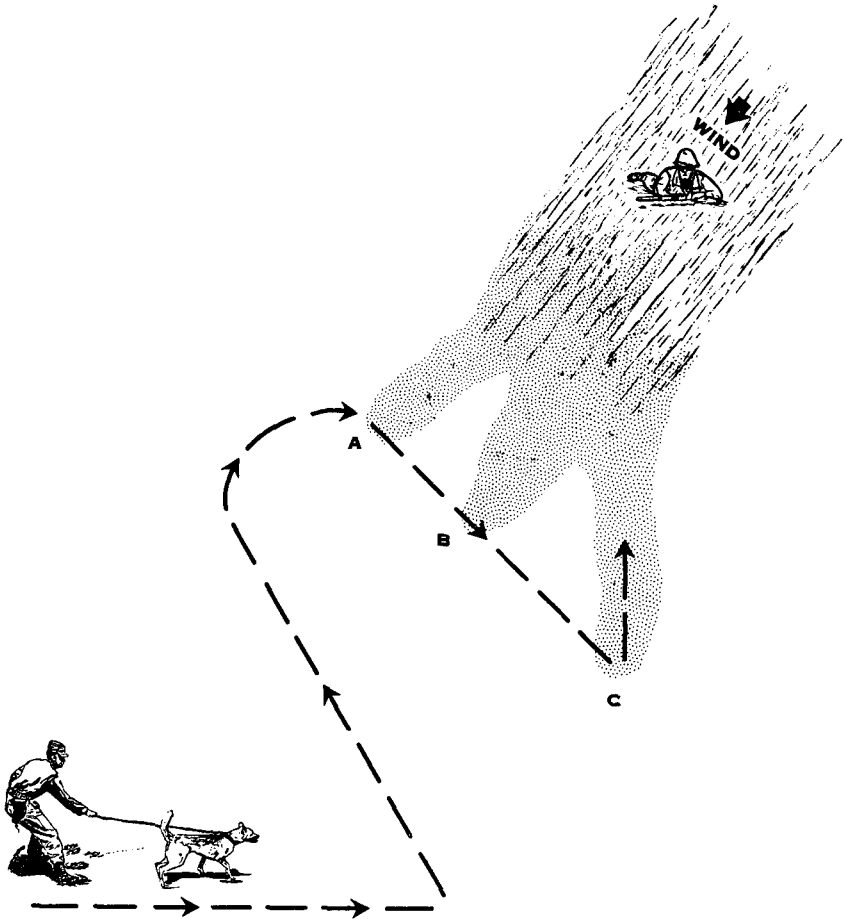
## 109. Training Procedure

*a.* From the beginning of basic training, a dog selected for scout training IS REPROVED IF HE ATTEMPTS TO BARK OR WHINE. The handler must use every reasonable means to keep him quiet. If the dog is taught to understand the correction "NO" in basic training, it is usually not difficult to silence him with this word. If necessary, his mouth may be held shut gently with the hand. As soon as the dog is quiet or is content to growl very softly, he should be patted and praised.

*b.* Before the dog and handler arrive in the training area, the instructor visually selects a route for the team to follow. The instructor prepositions human decoys at various intervals and at different distances away from and upwind to the prescribed route.







*Figure 35. Quartering in the field.*

The instructor and decoys must not walk the selected route as their odor will mark the trail.

c. The dog and his handler then enter the training area, which is preferably one where high grass affords cover for the decoys. Once in the field, the handler harnesses his dog and attaches the 5-foot leash. The dog wears the harness only when he is working. The handler removes it at the conclusion of the exercise. On starting the quartering exercise, the handler commands WATCH HIM, letting the dog precede him on a loose leash. The dog will then attempt to locate the decoy by smell, hearing, or sight. In this initial exercise, it is important for the decoy to be well concealed from view and remain quiet, but within easy scenting distance and directly upwind from the dog.

d. The dog is encouraged to lift his nose and sample the wind well above ground level. When he detects a scent other than his handler's, he is likely to react in one of the following ways:

- (1) Tensing the whole body.
- (2) Raising his hackles.
- (3) Pricking up his ears.
- (4) Giving other signs of alertness easily recognizable by a keen observer, such as a desire to investigate, a slight inclination to whimper or growl, an active or distinctly rigid tail.

e. As soon as the dog gives evidence that he has picked up the scent, the handler praises him. Praise at this point must be given in a soft, almost whispering voice; it must not be insistent enough to divert the dog from his work. (Some dogs when first going into the field will put their noses to the ground and attempt to pick up a ground scent. His handler must immediately discourage this tendency by raising his foot under the dog's chin to make him lift his head and reproving him with NO, NO in a stern voice. It is important that the dog's nose be raised to the proper scenting level *immediately* if he attempts to ground trail.)

f. When the dog gives his alert, the handler deduces the general direction to the decoy's hiding place and announces it to the instructor. If he is correct in his deduction, the instructor tells the handler to follow the scent. When the dog is about 10 feet from the decoy, the instructor tells the decoy to move out. The decoy exposes himself and runs rapidly to his right. The handler allows the dog to chase the decoy for 30 to 40 feet then turns off to his left to avoid contact with the decoy. The handler rewards the dog with praise and the exercise is considered concluded.

g. During repetitions of the exercise, the size of the quartering course is enlarged and the number of decoys is increased. The distances between the dog and the concealed decoys are lengthened progressively. The handler must give his dog every possible opportunity to locate the decoys. He stops at intervals so the dog can take advantage of every breeze, quartering the field if necessary for the dog to catch the scent. He pays strict attention to the dog's action and encourages him as soon as he shows signs that he may have spotted a decoy. The dog is not always allowed to follow the scent to the decoy and give chase. The handler uses the chase as a form of reward, but he should use it more and more infrequently during training.

h. This exercise is repeated daily with the terrain and other conditions being varied. The decoy is concealed in underbrush,

ditches, branches of a tree, behind rocks, or in any natural or artificial hiding place.

*i.* The role of the decoy is played by a different man each day so that the dog will learn that he must pick up all human scents other than that of his handler.

*j.* After the dog and his handler have established mutual understanding, they practice the exercise at night.

#### 110. Training for Outpost Duty

The procedure for training a dog for duty on an outpost as a precaution against enemy infiltration differs from that described in paragraph 109 in the following respects. The dog remains motionless and the decoy advances along a concealed route in day practice. Less concealment is required for night practice. The dog is trained to alert while stationary. The handler judges the decoy's approach by the reaction of his dog.

#### 111. Scout Dog Limitations

*a.* Smoke, fog, rain, and dust reduce the dog's effectiveness.

*b.* The dog becomes tired if he is used too often on patrol.

*c.* He is capable of error and may miss hostile troops or fail to alert, especially in an area where there is much movement and noise.

*d.* He needs retraining (basic and specialized) periodically and the longer he goes without retraining the less efficient he will be.

*e.* He is subject to the elements the same as a human. When he is extremely cold or overheated, he tends to be less alert.

*f.* If the dog is never given the opportunity to go in on a scent, his effectiveness is reduced. In a combat situation, a training area in the rear must be prepared so the dog can be given the opportunity to chase.

### Section IV. THE SENTRY DOG

#### 112. Use of Sentry Dogs

*a.* The sentry dog, as the name implies, is used principally on interior guard duty as a watchdog. This type of dog is trained to give warning to his handler by growling or barking, or by silent alert. He is habitually worked on leash. The handler, keeping the dog on leash, patrols his post and can depend on the dog to notify him of the approach or presence of strangers in or about the area being protected (fig. 36). When the dog alerts, the handler must

be prepared to cope with the situation as circumstances dictate; that is, he must challenge; investigate, keeping carefully under cover; or make an arrest. The dog, being kept on leash and close to the handler, will also assist as a psychological factor in such circumstances. He will attack on command of his handler.

*b.* The sentry dog can be used to advantage in such critical locations as—

Airplane dispersal areas	Beach patrol areas
Gun emplacement areas	Dynamite storage areas
Ammunition dumps	Motor pools
Ration dumps	Waterworks
Guided missile sites	Warehouses

*c.* Where areas to be guarded are free from traffic, entirely confined, and not excessively large, a trained dog may be turned loose and permitted to roam at liberty. Only the dog's handler should be permitted in or near the area being guarded and he must accompany any patrol sent to a point in the area to check on the suspected presence of trespassers so he can control the dog. Sentry dogs working at liberty are usually sharp and will attack trespassers at once.

*d.* The sentry dog is a one-man dog. Each dog is assigned to only one handler for care, training, and duty.

*e.* Whenever practical, sentry dogs should patrol downwind from the area being protected to increase their alerting range.

*f.* There is no need to withdraw sentry dog teams from post during rainy weather. Although a heavy rain will tend to reduce a dog's effective alerting range, his ability to detect intruders will still exceed that of his handler. No difficulties should be encountered in the employment of sentry dogs in cold climates where temperatures fall to 40° F. below zero. The dogs will adjust rapidly to the extreme temperature; however, for peak efficiency in such cold climates, carry out the following special instructions.

- (1) Assign the dogs to their duty sites during the summer months so they can gradually become acclimated before cold weather sets in.
- (2) Cold weather housing for dogs should be unheated and located out-of-doors.
- (3) In extremely cold climates, provide the dogs with boots to protect their pads against ice cuts. Dog boots may be made from canvas or leather as described in FM 25-6, or they may be bought at appropriate civilian shops.

### 113. Selection for Training in Sentry Work

See paragraphs 98 and 99. To be suitable for sentry training, dogs should possess the desirable traits (pars. 7-11) in the following degrees:

Intelligence: Moderate to high.

Willingness: Moderate to high.

Energy: Moderate to high.

Aggressiveness: High.

Sensitivity: Low to moderate.

### 114. Training Conditions

*a. Functions of the Handler.* In addition to teaching the dog to obey his commands, the handler must instill in him the idea that every human, except himself, is his natural enemy. He does this by encouraging the dog to alert at the presence of any stranger and to attempt to attack him. It must be emphasized that the handler **NEVER PERMITS ANYONE TO PET OR MAKE FRIENDS WITH THE DOG HE IS TRAINING.** He must remember that he is the only friend the dog must recognize; he is the **ONLY** master. For the same reason, the handler must never pet any dog except his own.

*b. Functions of Assistant.* An assistant is used to act as agitator and decoy. The agitator sharpens the dog's aggressiveness by teasing and angering him and builds up his self-confidence by retreating as soon as the dog makes an aggressive move toward him. He approaches the dog in a threatening manner, but when the dog

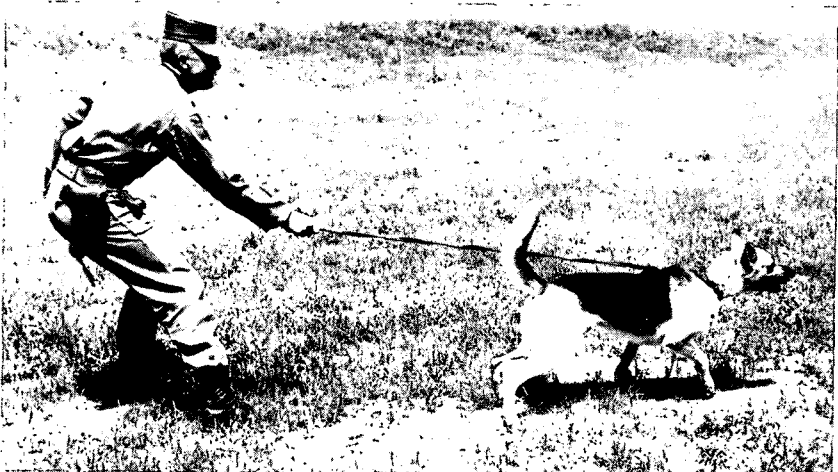
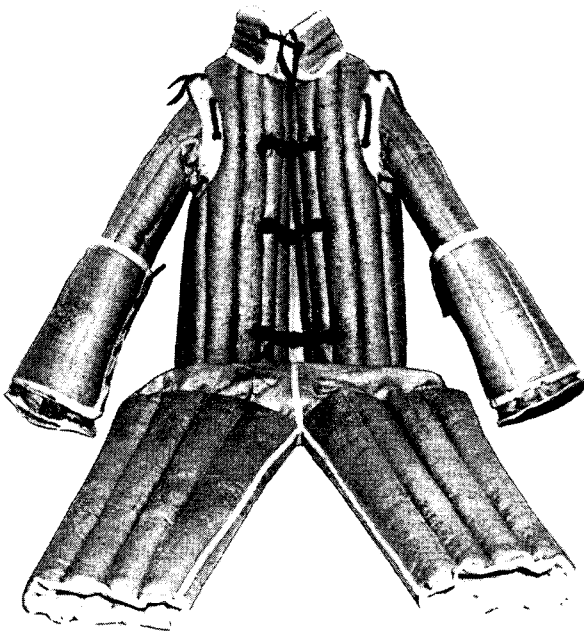


Figure 36. Sentry dog alerted.

makes the slightest move toward him, he retreats. His manner of approaching the dog may be varied according to the dog's temperament. It is essential, however, that in every encounter between the dog and the agitator, the DOG MUST ALWAYS BE THE WINNER. The agitator is as important in sentry dog training as the handler, and his work should be carefully supervised by the instructor. For variety, different men are used as agitators. The handler of one dog can act as agitator for the handler of another dog. See paragraph 117 for the assistant's function when acting as a decoy.

*c. Location.* Training starts in the regular training area. As the dog progresses, he is moved to different locations, chosen to resemble various types of sentry posts.

*d. Time.* Initial training is done during daytime. When the dog alerts consistently to the presence of unfamiliar persons in daylight, final training is undertaken at night.



*Figure 37. Attack suit.*

## 115. Equipment for Sentry Training

The following equipment is required:

a. The handler will need a chain choke collar, a 5-foot leather leash, a 25-foot leash, a flat leather collar, a stake, and a kennel chain.

b. The agitator needs a small flexible stick, rolled up sacking, or other harmless weapon, and attack suit and extra sleeve (fig. 37).

## 116. Basic Training Required

The basic training requirements for sentry dogs are identical to those for scout dogs (par. 105).

## 117. Training Procedure

a. Training for the sentry dog is divided into three stages.

- (1) *Testing, arousing, and controlling the dog's natural aggressiveness.* Some dogs are naturally aggressive and do not need much teasing to become excited. To avoid accidents, training in arousing aggressiveness may be started by tying the dog to a stake with a kennel chain attached to the broad leather collar. It is advisable to loosen an inch or two of the earth around the stake so that the stake will give a little when the dog lunges and not check him too sharply.
- (2) *Teaching the dog to detect a stranger's presence or approach.* The dog must learn to detect the presence of a human in partial or complete concealment either below, at, or above ground level. For this reason, the final stage of sentry training must include patrols in areas where decoys are concealed in such places as the branches of a tree, behind a fence, or in a ditch. It is desirable to work the dog on the 25-foot leash, as well as the short leash, so that he can enter buildings and other suspected places of concealment ahead of the handler.
- (3) *Teaching the dog to attack.* The dog is taught to attack on command and stop his attack on command. The command to attack is GET HIM and the command to release or stop attacking is OUT. At the command GET HIM, the handler drops the leash and the dog attacks. On the command OUT, the dog returns to his handler who then commands DOWN, STAY, and WATCH HIM.

b. Training proceeds as follows :

- (1) When the dog is chained to a stake for agitation training (a (1) above), the handler also puts a chain choke collar on the dog with the 5-foot leather leash attached. The handler heels the dog to the end of the chain, orders him to sit, and steps away from the dog, keeping hold of the leash.
- (2) The handler puts the dog on the alert by the command WATCH HIM uttered in a low voice, almost a whisper. The command WATCH HIM is used only during early training. It is a signal for the dog that he is on duty and must be prepared to detect any intrusion. The command should be eliminated as soon as the dog has learned that putting on the collar and leash signifies that he is on duty. WATCH HIM is never used in actual service to alert the dog. The dog notifies the handler of danger, the handler does not notify the dog.
- (3) The agitator appears, equipped with a small, flexible stick or some other harmless weapon. He approaches the dog from an angle, not facing him directly. He looks at the dog out of the corner of his eyes; he does not stare at him. He strikes at the dog without hitting him, and jumps away. As he strikes, the handler encourages the dog by saying GET HIM, GET HIM, in a sharp voice.
- (4) Dogs will respond to this procedure according to their natural aggressiveness. At this point, they may be conveniently classified as follows and their training continued accordingly:
  - (a) *A moderately aggressive dog.* This dog is the easiest to train for sentry work. He barks or growls as soon as the agitator appears, lunging on the chain and trying to attack. The agitator runs away and out of sight. As soon as the dog responds in this manner, the handler praises him lavishly and, if the dog is not too excited, steps close to him and pats him. When the handler is convinced that the dog is aroused only against the agitator and that he has no tendency to attack indiscriminately, he may be considered ready for work off the stake. The exercise for that day is concluded with the agitator running away and the handler praising the dog and unchaining him.
  - (b) *An overaggressive dog.* This dog is apt to lose his head, try to bite everyone within reach, and keep on barking even after the agitator disappears. In this case, the



handler scolds the dog. He shouts NO, NO, jerking on the leash until the dog calms down. He must be careful not to step within reach until the dog stops barking and growling. When he is sure that the dog is calm enough, he approaches him, speaking soothingly, and praises and pets him. This procedure is repeated, except that the agitator appears and disappears immediately. As the dog shows signs of directing his aggressiveness toward the agitator, the handler lavishes praise on him, and tries to indicate to him that his hostility must be directed only at the agitator. After two or three trials, training stops for the day. It is resumed the following day with the dog chained to the stake as before. He is chained to the stake for this exercise until he has demonstrated that he will not bite his handler, no matter how excited he becomes.

- (c) *An underaggressive dog.* This dog reacts negatively to the presence of the agitator. He may stand and wag his tail, throw himself on the ground, or try to run away from the agitator. In this case, the agitator approaches the dog from the flank and hits or seizes him from behind. The handler sets an example for the dog by making threatening gestures toward the agitator, who imitates a dog's growl. When the dog, in trying to protect himself, snaps or growls at the agitator, the agitator at once stops teasing the dog and quickly steps away. In training this type of dog, it is very important for the handler to exaggerate his praise and encouragement whenever the dog shows the slightest sign of aggressiveness, and for the agitator to exaggerate his simulated fear of the dog. This procedure must be repeated until the dog's confidence is built up and he tries to attack the agitator as soon as he approaches. Training for the day is concluded with praise by the master as the agitator disappears.

c. Six naturally aggressive dogs are brought out at the same time. These are dogs which have demonstrated that they do not need to be chained to the stake. Between every two of these dogs is placed a dog that has reacted negatively to the first phase of training. All the dogs are lined up far enough apart so that they cannot get into a fight among themselves. Each dog is on leash at the left side of his handler. At the command WATCH HIM, the agitator appears and walks toward the dogs. Some of the dogs will bark immediately; these should be praised lavishly by their handlers. The agitator concentrates his attention on the dogs that do

not respond readily. He approaches them with his stick, threatens them, and jumps away. Inspired by the bolder dogs beside them, even the slow ones will eventually start barking. If properly encouraged by their masters, they will understand that there is nothing to fear from the agitator, and that he will disappear as soon as they bark, growl, or make a move toward him. When all the dogs in the group alert as soon as the agitator appears, he must vary his direction of approach and increase the distance at which he first appears. The dogs that detect him earliest are praised lavishly. It will be found that the slower dogs learn from their aggressive companions, as well as from their handlers.

*d.* When all the dogs in the class alert at the approach of the agitator, a new man takes his place. The dogs learn in this way that ANY man approaching is an enemy. It is desirable to have numerous persons play the role of the agitator.

*e.* The handler now plays the role of the sentry, walking post with his dog heeling on loose leash. (This simulated post must be changed each day so that the dog does not get accustomed to one definite route.) When the dog and sentry have advanced a short distance, the agitator approaches from some place of concealment. If the dog has learned his first lessons, he will detect the approach of the agitator and will alert without help from the handler. If he does not alert, the handler gives him a cue by saying WATCH HIM. As soon as the dog gives warning, the agitator runs out of sight and the handler praises and encourages the dog. If the dog does not respond correctly, the agitator conceals himself along the dog's path of advance, steps out quickly from his hiding place, hits at the dog with a stick, and jumps away. This will arouse the dog. Furthermore, he will learn that unless he gives alarm immediately upon detecting the presence of a stranger, he will suffer pain and punishment.

*f.* When a dog detects and alerts to the presence of all strangers at a considerable distance without any help during the daytime, he is generally ready to be worked at night. It will usually be found that a dog better at night because scenting conditions are more favorable and his keen hearing is enhanced by the absence of distracting noises.

## 118. Additional Training Notes

*a. Importance of Loose Heeling.* In walking a post, loose heeling is essential as long as the dog does not pull or tug on the leash. If a handler insists on close heeling, the dog is more likely to concentrate on perfection in heeling; this means that his attention will be on the handler and not concentrated on his surroundings.

He is likely to forget his main duty, which is to be on the alert at all times and ready to give alarm at the slightest provocation.

*b. Importance of Distrust of Strangers.* The sentry dog is taught not to make friends with strangers. The handler walks his dog on leash at the heel position. A stranger approaches uttering soothing words and coaxes the dog to come to him. As soon as the dog starts to respond with friendliness, the stranger slaps him smartly on the nose and jumps away. The handler then encourages the dog to attack the stranger. This is repeated with different people acting as strangers until the dog growls and barks on the approach of all strangers, no matter how friendly their attitude or how much they attempt to appease the dog. Next, a stranger tries to entice the dog with a piece of meat or any other bit of food the dog likes particularly. If the dog tries to take the food, the stranger slaps him on the nose and runs away without giving him the food. Thus the dog learns that **HIS HANDLER IS THE ONLY PERSON TO BE TRUSTED.**

## Section V. ADVANCED OBEDIENCE AND AGITATION TRAINING

### 119. Advanced Obedience

*a.* Advanced obedience training consists of requiring the dog to run an obstacle course and to perform all exercises off leash and without the use of command gestures. Since sentry dogs are normally used at night when gestures are useless, it is essential to train them to understand and obey vocal commands. This advanced training allows the handler to acquire increased control over his dog and develops in the dog the discipline necessary for effective military service.

*b.* At the start of obedience training, the dogs are well separated to minimize the possibility of fights. A dog that attempts to attack another should be muzzled immediately as punishment. As the training progresses the handlers increase their control and the dogs become accustomed to working together in the area. The distance between dogs is then gradually reduced until handlers and dog, working off leash, are capable of doing close order drill and obedience exercises at intervals of four feet or less.

### 120. Obstacle Course

As in the case of human beings, sentry dogs cannot be expected to maintain peak efficiency unless they are in top physical condition. This means that, in addition to receiving proper food and

medical care, they must be exercised frequently, regularly, and strenuously. An obstacle course (fig. 38) which may be constructed out of natural or salvage materials, provides an excellent medium for such exercise. All units which have sentry dogs assigned should have an obstacle course constructed. A good obstacle course should include, but is not limited to, hurdles, ditches, and low ramps for jumping; high ramps to teach the dog that wherever his handler takes him he is not to be afraid; tunnels to teach a dog to crawl; and walking logs or ladders raised above and parallel to the ground to teach a dog to be more sure-footed.

## 121. Agitation

a. Advanced agitation training consists of teasing the dog to the extent of making him bite at the agitator. The agitator wears the extra sleeve (with or without the attack suit) to give the dog something to actually bite. He uses a light switch or burlap bag to irritate the dog. For the more dangerous exercises in agitation training, the agitator may wear a fencer's face mask for added protection (figs. 39, 40 and 42). This mask is not an item of issue, but it is well worth the trouble to try to obtain one. The agitator builds the dog up by acting frightened and backing up every time the dog advances. Without exception, the dog must always be the winner. A handler never agitates his own dog.

*Note.* Scout dogs are never given agitation training.

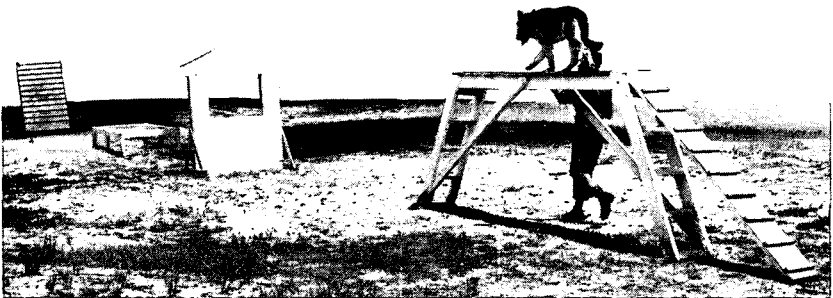
b. The dog always wears the leather collar for agitation training. As soon as a session has been completed the collar is removed. In this way the dog soon comes to associate the leather collar with agitation and when it is placed around his neck he will begin to search for an agitator. He also wears the leather collar while performing sentry duty. It is important that this leather collar/agitator association be established early and firmly. The choke chain is used only when taking a dog to or from the kennel area and during obedience training.

c. It is agitation which develops in a dog the aggressiveness and viciousness essential to an effective sentry dog. His aggressiveness and viciousness determine his alertness on post and his urge to attack. It is important to keep in mind that each dog is an individual with a distinct temperament of his own and, to obtain the best results, agitation must be suited to the dog. There are four principal methods of agitation.

- (1) *Line agitation* (fig. 39). Handlers and dogs form a single line at intervals of about 30 feet, the dogs standing at heel. The agitator quietly approaches one end of the line from the rear. He stops when he is about 30 feet from

the first dog and handler and the instructor commands ABOUT, FACE. All handlers and dogs execute about face, and the first dog and handler advance slowly toward the agitator. The handler incites his dog with the command WATCH HIM. When the dog comes within 10 feet of him, the agitator acts excited and afraid and begins to retreat, walking backwards. The dog is allowed to approach within 3 feet of the agitator who then irritates the dog a few moments with his switch, while continuing to retreat. The handler then calls off his dog and leads him back of the agitation line to the other end while the next dog and handler start the same procedure. This should continue until each dog has gone through three repetitions of the agitation. The dogs are *not* allowed to take hold of the agitator during this exercise.

- (2) *Circle agitation* (fig. 40). Handlers and dogs form a circle with a 30-foot interval between each team. The agitator, wearing either an attack sleeve or an attack suit and carrying a switch, takes his position in the center



*Figure 38. Obstacle course.*



*Figure 39. Line agitation.*

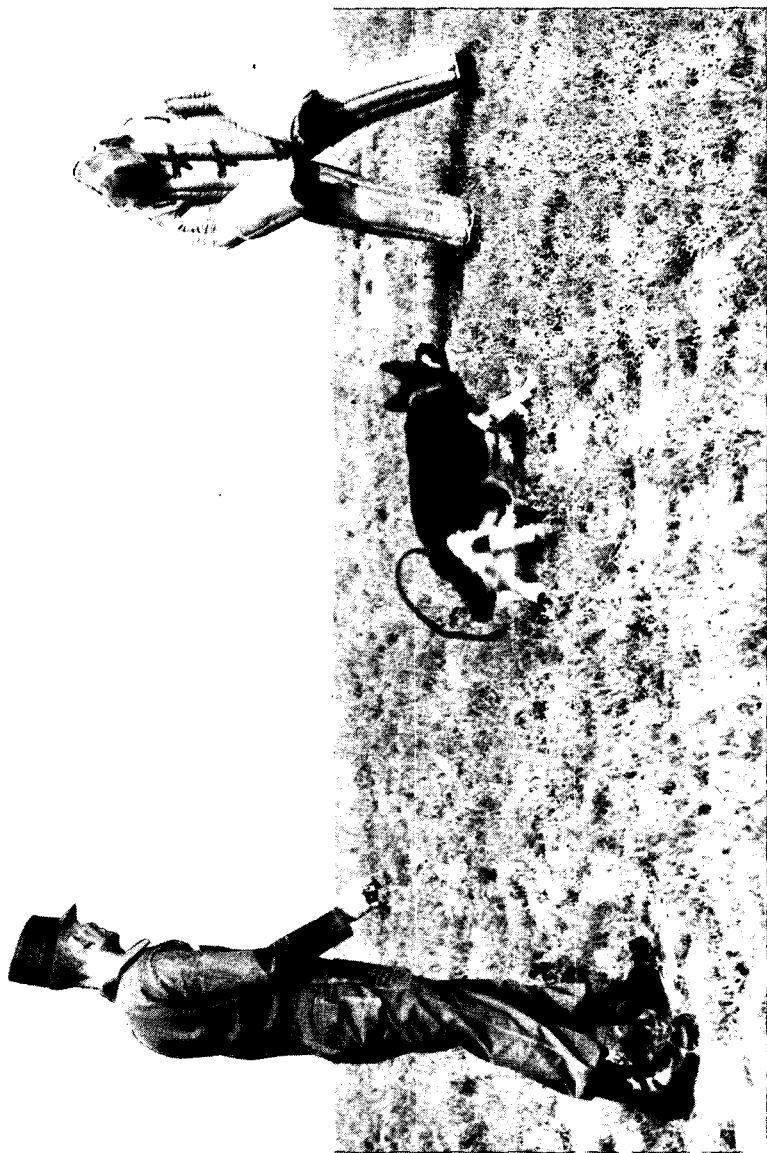
of the circle. At the command MOVE IN the handlers and dogs move very slowly toward the agitator and the handlers order the dogs to WATCH HIM. At the same time, the handlers begin taking up the slack in the leashes until, by the time the dogs are within four feet of the agitator, the handlers are holding them by the leather



*Figure 40. Circle agitation.*



*Figure 41. Kennel agitation.*



*Figure 42. Sentry dog attacking on command.*

collar. This is necessary to protect the agitator and to eliminate the possibility of one dog attacking another. While the dogs are moving in, the agitator moves about threatening first one dog and then another with his switch. When the circle has been reduced to 10 feet in diameter, the handlers halt and, at the instructor's command MOVE OUT, resume their original positions in the large circle. This exercise is repeated several times. Next, starting from the big circle, the agitator has the handlers bring their dogs into the center of the circle one at a time for individual agitation. In this phase of agitation, the dogs are allowed to bite the agitator's attack sleeve or suit. The aggressiveness shown by each dog stimulates aggressiveness in the other dogs and creates an emotional chain reaction. This is particularly effective in the case of dogs that are deficient in aggressiveness or slow in attacking or biting.

- (3) *Kennel agitation.* This type agitation is used only on dogs that do not respond to other types. The expected reaction is based on the dog's natural instinct to protect his home. The agitator approaches while the dog is in his run and his handler is present. The agitator makes threatening gestures and vocal sounds, slapping the fenced run with a switch, burlap bag, or some other object (fig. 41). The handler incites his dog against the agitator. At the first sign of aggressiveness on the part of the dog, the agitator runs away and is chased by the handler. The handler then returns and praises and pets the dog. This should be repeated until the instructor determines that maximum benefit has been realized.
- (4) *Stake agitation.* Stake agitation follows kennel agitation. It is conducted like kennel agitation except that the dog is chained to a tree, post, or stake in some open space away from the kennels. This exercise tends to further build up the dog's confidence in himself in unfamiliar places.
- (5) *Muzzle agitation.* This is an exercise for sentry dogs. The sentry dog is muzzled and allowed to attack his agitator who wears regular clothing. This actually is a test to determine if the dog will attack, on command, persons not dressed in the attack suit. During training, many dogs seem to acquire an almost exclusive association between the attack suit and "enemy."

d. Dogs are never agitated from a vehicle. Eventually this will

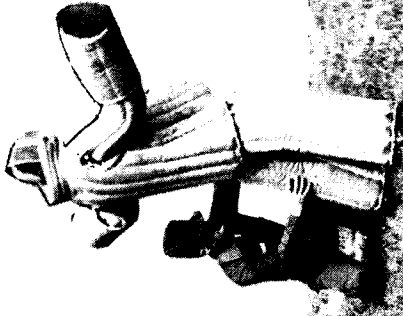


cause them to look for and react against vehicles instead of people. In addition, they become nervous and excited when vehicles approach, thus making it difficult to get them to enter one and ride calmly.

e. Normally, dogs should be agitated at least three times weekly to keep them at the peak of their effectiveness, but the temperament of individual dogs should also be considered in determining the amount of agitation they need. Under no circumstances will a dog be agitated in the absence of his handler.

## 122. Attack Training

The handler and his dog proceed to an area which is isolated from both pedestrian and vehicular traffic. In the training area, the handler puts the leather work collar on the dog and does not remove it until the exercise is completed. The agitator, dressed in an attack suit, should be concealed upwind from the dog so that his scent will be driven directly into the dog's nose. For the first exercise in this phase of training, it is important for the agitator to be well concealed, but within easy scenting distance and directly upwind from the dog. The handler commands WATCH HIM, and the dog then tries to locate the agitator by scent or sound. When the dog alerts and pulls on the leash, the handler should put his hand on the dog's flank, stroking it gently and whispering the words, "Atta boy, Good boy," to praise the dog. He must praise the dog enough to encourage him, but must not distract him from his purpose. The dog's attention must remain focused in the direction of the agitator. The dog approaches the concealed agitator and the handler again uses words of praise and encouragement. When the dog gets to within a short distance of the agitator, the agitator breaks cover. The handler orders the agitator to halt and place his hands over his head. The agitator ignores the order and tries to escape. The handler then releases his dog and commands GET HIM. The dog then pursues and attacks the agitator (fig. 42) who, after a brief struggle, ceases to resist. The handler approaches, commands OUT, and draws the dog away from the agitator, at the same time praising and patting him. He leads the dog about 10 feet away from the agitator and commands DOWN, STAY, and WATCH HIM. He then returns to the agitator and searches him, being careful never to place himself between the dog and the agitator. In the course of the search, the agitator strikes or pushes the handler to the ground and tries to run away. At this point the dog must attack the agitator WITHOUT COMMAND from the handler.



*Figure 48. Guarding a prisoner.*



*Figure 44. Escorting a prisoner.*

### 123. Attacking Under Gunfire

Attack under gunfire is taught after the sentry dog is well trained and the handler is sure that he will obey all commands or gestures to attack and cease attack. The agitator wears the attack suit. The procedure is like that prescribed in paragraph 122, except that when the dog flushes the agitator, the handler and the agitator exchange pistol shots, the handler firing first. The exercise then continues through all the stages of pursuit, capture, guard, and search. When exchanging shots, the handler and agitator should be careful not to fire close to the dog's head to avoid powder burns, particularly about his eyes and nose.

### 124. Guarding a Prisoner

On the command **DOWN**, the dog assumes this position behind a motionless prisoner (fig. 43). He must not be close enough for the prisoner to injure him with a sudden kick. The handler then commands **WATCH HIM** to put the dog on the alert, and walks

away to a hiding place where he can observe the dog's actions. The prisoner then starts to turn around, or walk or run away. If the dog does not attack when the prisoner moves; the handler immediately comes out of his hiding place and commands GET HIM. This exercise is repeated until the dog pursues and attacks the prisoner whenever he moves. The exercise should always conclude with the handler returning to the scene, taking charge of the prisoner, and praising the dog.

### **125. Escorting a Prisoner**

The dog is taught that a prisoner is not to be attacked when walking slowly, accompanied by the dog's handler. In this exercise, the dog is made to heel on leash at the left side of the handler, while a prisoner walks in front and slightly to the left of the dog (fig. 44). The prisoner suddenly turns in a threatening manner or starts to run away. The handler drops the leash and the dog, if well trained, will attack. At first, the handler may need to command GET HIM. The procedure is repeated until the dog attacks without command when the prisoner makes any sudden break, but refrains from attacking when the prisoner is marching in an orderly manner ahead of the handler. The handler praises his dog at the conclusion of each exercise.

## CHAPTER 5

### HINTS FOR HANDLERS

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#### 126. Helpful Hints

*a.* Oral commands should always be given with the same words, in the same tone, and at the same rate of speed.

*b.* Do not punish your dog for failure to execute a command unless you are certain that he understands what you want.

*c.* Reward follows promptly after each act done properly; punishment follows every act of disobedience.

*d.* To punish a dog at any time other than instantly after he has committed a wrong act is cruelty rather than training.

*e.* Training periods should not be too long as a dog tires quickly and will go sour on the lesson.

*f.* If a dog does one step wrong, do not repeat this step only. Begin again, for a dog must learn acts in their entirety to carry them out successfully.

*g.* Never fool your dog, he has a sense of humiliation and pride. He is to always understand that when you say a certain word, a certain thing will happen. There must never be a break in this seeming cause and effect.

*h.* Anticipate your dog's actions. Think ahead of him.

*i.* Do not lose your temper while training your dog. He will lose respect for you. A person must refrain from venting his anger on an animal.

*j.* Have patience with your dog. He wants to do what you want him to do, but you cannot tell him in a language that he readily understands.

*k.* All dog training is founded on the theory that his natural instincts and abilities can be stimulated and developed.

*l.* A dog has a one-track mind. Teach him only one thing at a time.

*m.* Too many masters, too many friends, too many strangers will ruin your dog. Let him know only one master: You, whose word is supreme law.

## 127. Commands Used by Instructor and Handler

<i>Instructor</i>	<i>Handler</i>
Class, ATTENTION (one step forward)	HEEL (SIT)
Sit dog, COMMAND	SIT
Down dog, COMMAND	DOWN
Recall dog, COMMAND	COME, HEEL, SIT
Circle dog, MOVE	STAY
Heel position, MOVE (From the end of leash)	STAY
Crawl dog, COMMAND	CRAWL
Cover	DOWN
Jump dog	HUP
Right Flank, MARCH	HEEL
Left Flank, MARCH	HEEL
To the Rear, MARCH	HEEL
Right, FACE	HEEL
Left, FACE	HEEL
About, FACE	HEEL
Column right, MARCH	HEEL
Column left, MARCH	HEEL
Forward, MARCH	HEEL
Detail, HALT	SIT
Drop leashes, MOVE	STAY

### *Special Commands*

CORRECTIVE COMMAND IS ALWAYS	NO
While scouting to alert the dog	SEARCH
Sentry dog command	WATCH HIM
Approval or release command	OK
Attack	GET HIM
Cease attack	OUT

## 128. Steps in Daily Grooming

- a. Examine nose.
- b. Examine eyes.
- c. Examine ears and ear flaps.
- d. Check teeth.
- e. Check nails and pads.
- f. Check anus.
- g. Examine and care for dog's coat.
  - (1) Rub against the grain using the fingertips.
  - (2) Rub with the grain using fingertips.
  - (3) Brush against the grain.
  - (4) Brush with the grain.
  - (5) Comb only to remove dead hair.
  - (6) Smooth hair down with hand.

## 129. Jerk on the Leash

A jerk on the leash is a very necessary thing, especially in the basic training of your dog. It will mildly discipline an otherwise errant dog and is effective in getting the attention of young and

inattentive dogs, indicating to them that some new move or command is coming up. The handler should never jerk the leash violently enough to injure the dog, nor viciously to vent his temper on the dog.

### **130. Reminders for Dog Handler Going on Patrol**

*a.* If possible, accompany the patrol leader on his ground reconnaissance and assist him in making the detailed plans for the patrol (such as suggesting a route that will allow the dog to work at maximum efficiency).

*b.* If it is to be a long patrol, make sure that food and water are provided for the dog.

*c.* Inform the patrol members of the temperament of the particular dog to be used on the patrol.

*d.* Inform the patrol what should be done in regard to the dog if you are seriously wounded or killed.

*e.* Establish with the patrol leader a system of signals to use for exchanging information once your dog detects the presence of the enemy.

*f.* Inspect your dog's working equipment to see that all metal parts are taped or wrapped to preclude unnecessary noise. This inspection includes the metal choke chain, the snap on the leash, and the D-ring of the leather harness.

*g.* Walk your dog at heel and review him in basic obedience for about 15 minutes just before you take him to join the patrol. This gives the dog an opportunity to evacuate and to burn up some of his accumulated nervous energy.

## APPENDIX

### REFERENCES

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- |               |   |
|---------------|---|
| AR 40-905     | Veterinary Service For Public Animals.                                      |
| AR 320-5      | Dictionary of United States Army Terms.                                     |
| AR 320-50     | Authorized Abbreviations.   |
| AR 725-8710-2 | Forage, Dog Food, and Bird Feed.  |
| FM 21-5       | Military Training.  |
| FM 21-6       | Techniques of Military Instruction.   |
| FM 25-6       | Dog Transportation.   |
| DA Pam 108-1  | Index of Army Motion Pictures, Filmstrips,<br>Slides, and Phono-Recordings. |
| DA Pam 310-1  | Index of Administrative Publications (Army<br>Regulations and Pamphlets).   |
| DA Pam 310-3  | Index of Training Publications (Field Man-<br>uals).                        |



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By Order of *Wilber M. Brucker*, Secretary of the Army:

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For explanation of abbreviations used, see AR 320-50.