

# Handling, Feeding and Care of War Dogs

Notes from "Training Memorandum Number 16" Issued by Headquarters, Hawaiian Department

## SECTION I—HANDLING

**GENERAL.**—The sentry and his war dog form a working unit. Each one of them is an equal half of a team. The ultimate value of this unit depends upon the ability of the two individuals, as well as the amount of cooperation and coordination which has developed between them.

The performance of the war dog unfailingly reflects the work habits and attitudes of the master. If the master is exact, energetic and "on the job," the dog will be the same. If the master is slothful and careless, the dog will, in time, acquire the same characteristics.

Your animal has had his basic training and is ready for duty. Your future work with him at your post or on patrol will either develop him into a real service dog or ruin him. Your attention to the dog and your interest in him will show accurately in the dog's performance.

In order to perform well, your dog must be clean and healthy. Follow carefully the instructions as to his care and cleaning. A dog deserves and should receive a good grooming each day. You should examine him daily for cuts, wounds, ticks, and burrs.

If your dog works at night, feed him in the morning, because he works best when his stomach is empty. A full belly makes him sluggish.

Your animal is a working dog and *not a pet*. He should be friendly with the service men, but his attachment for his actual masters should be the most strongly-developed feature of him. Guard this attachment and do not allow any but his actual masters to caress, feed, or care for him. For the first two (2) weeks, all work is on leash. You must judge when his attachment to you will permit off-leash work and assure prompt recall.

Training and control is based upon reward for accuracy and correction for error. Every correction **MUST** be followed by an exercise easily executed, in order to give opportunity for an immediate reward for accurate work.

The name of the dog must always mean "come" and should never be used as a correction. Coming to his master must always be pleasant, because sometime this act may save your life.

Your dog can work correctly only if you give him the proper command at the right time.

The dog should be familiarized with all possible hiding places in his working environment. He should be taught (by actually going into these places with his master) that he is allowed to enter enclosures, rooms, drains, and other hiding places in his working area. Do a reasonable amount of work with the dog on a long quartering leash in order to

be sure that he retains the idea that he can work out at a distance from his master.

In all searching work, the man is one half of the unit. Observe your dog carefully so that you may know when he senses something different. Each dog shows his interest in a different way when a new smell enters his nostrils. One dog will speed up, another will check and stiffen, another may "point," and still another bark and growl. Study your dog to note any variation in speed, head position, muscle tension, or sound as the dog comes in wind of an interesting odor. Use only his name to turn him back to you, **NEVER** a "Phui," because he may have winded just the person or object for which you are searching. The moment you notice your dog's warning change of action, give him a low "Attaboy," then "Hopp-Hopp," and let him show you what he has found. A "Phui" or recall at such a moment may ruin the dog for this type of work. If the dog stops to empty his bladder or intestine while searching, allow the halt and do not give "Phui."

Practice with your dog. Familiarity of the dog with his working environment will develop the mutual understanding necessary to finished work. On your part, make a study of your dog so that his every action will convey some definite information to you. Such practice and mutual understanding are necessary to the greatest good in service, for it produces the working team which can function as a smoothly-coordinated unit. Make your team a real service unit, and your dog will help you every minute that you are on duty.

**ATTACK DOGS.**—*a.* The attack dog should have at least ten minutes each day of disciplined, snappy, obedience drill. This can be given as you go on duty or return from duty. The work must be accurate and given in a military manner on the part of both dog and master. Some marching should be a part of every obedience work-out.

*b.* In all obedience work the master's left hand denotes position desired of the dog and gives encouragement or caress. Neither hand ever gives a correction. Correction is by use of your voice, the chainette for the attack dog (when the dog is not watching), or a leash jerk.

*c.* Do not get in the habit of watching your dog during marching drill. You must learn to sense his position and let the dog watch you.

*d.* Your dog will remember his attack work **WITHOUT** frequent practice. Do **NOT** show off your dog.

**WARNING DOGS.**—*a.* The warning dog will not be accurate or consistent in warning until he has become attached to his new post and until he feels that

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it is *his home*. The time required to accomplish this will vary from a few days to a month. The point to remember is that the dog must have a definite place which he knows is his kennel home and he must always be fed there. Do not allow the dog to sleep in various barracks and do not let others feed him at various places.

*b.* When the dog has made his new surroundings his home, then during the early night slip up on the dog in order to get him to bark. The dog can thus be taught to know that he is expected to bark whenever anyone approaches his post.

*c.* At posts having two warning dogs as a unit, both dogs will be kept tied or on leash during the first two (2) weeks, until they have accepted the post as home. After this time, one (1) dog can be loose while the other is tied. Alternate the dogs so that each has equal shifts when he is loose and tied.

COMMANDS.—Your dog is trained to recognize and to obey certain commands, which are given only when the situation calls for them and only when prompt obedience is expected. You cannot deceive your dog and still retain his respect; play square with him and he will be your most loyal ally. A command consists of word, tone, and gesture. Give your commands as you have been taught and insist upon obedience; your dog will then respect you and will be anxious to please you by doing your bidding.

### COMMANDS

For Attack Dog	Meaning	For Warning Dog
Dog's name.....	Means "come".....	Dog's name
Come.....	Also means "come".....	Come
Heel.....	Close to master's left.....	(The warning dog remains within ten feet of master in any direction.)
Sit.....	To sit.....	
Hupp.....	To jump.....	Hupp
H-a-l-t.....	To stand.....	
Down.....	To lie down.....	
Rest.....	To remain where left.....	
Hopp-Hopp.....	To search at a distance.....	Hopp-Hopp
Assah.....	Attention or attack.....	ssss-ssss
Halt.....	To cease attack.....	
Attaboy or attagirl.....	Reward.....	Attaboy or attagirl
Stop it.....	Correction.....	Stop it
Phui.....	Correction.....	Phui

### SECTION II—FEEDING

GENERAL.—The most important consideration, in keeping a dog in good health and condition, is his diet. Unfortunately, most people have not been properly educated regarding rations for dogs. Through ignorance, stinginess, superstition, hearsay, and carelessness, the stomachs of the large majority of canines have been woefully mistreated. The idea that a dog is a sort of animated garbage can, and capable of living on foraged odds and ends, or on the scraps thrown to him, is entirely wrong.

FOOD REQUIREMENTS.—Various foods are classified according to what they will supply to the animal system. In general they are grouped as follows:

*Proteins.*—Flesh making and tissue building.



Photo by U. S. Army Signal Corps

Mostly supplied to dogs in the form of meat.

*Fats.*—Energy and heat producing. Supplied in meat fats.

*Carbohydrates.*—Energy producing. Supplied in the form of bread and cereals.

*Minerals.*—Bone building. Cereals, vegetables, and bones.

*Vitamins.*—General health. Milk, vegetables, eggs, and meat.

APPROVED FOODS.—*a. Meats.*—The following kinds of *meat* are *approved* for your dog:

Beef, Mutton, Lamb, Eggs (raw), Chicken (well boned), Cooked fish, Horse meat.

*b. Vegetables.*—The following kinds of vegetables (always well mashed) are *approved* for your dog:

Tomatoes, Spinach, Carrots, Cabbage, String beans, Peas.

FORBIDDEN FOODS.—*a. Meats.*—The following kinds of *meat* are harmful for your dog and should *never* be fed to him:

Corned beef, Canned ham, Cooked eggs, Raw fish, Pork, Pork preparation (Spam), Veal, Bacon.

*b. Other foods.*—The following items of food are harmful for your dog and should *never* be fed to him:

Potatoes, rice, spaghetti, beans, nuts, fruits, cakes, pastries, and candy, starch foods, ice cream.

AMOUNT AND PREPARATION OF FOOD.—*a.* Meat should form the main portion of a dog's food. If we try to feed a dog on a diet from which meat (or its equivalent) is left out, we ignore the origin of the animal. When man found him millions of years ago, the dog was a meat eater; and we should continue to make this the main item of his diet.

*b.* For the larger breeds of dogs working in the Hawaiian Islands, a safe and satisfactory diet is from two-thirds to three-fourths meat, with the balance consisting of an approved vegetable, a cereal, soup, and milk.

*c.* A good rule to follow for the main meal is to feed one (1) to one and one-half (1½) pounds of meat to each fifty (50) pounds of bodyweight, de-

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pending upon the size of the dog and the amount of work he is required to do. If possible feed raw meat at least twice a week.

*d.* In order to maintain the proper vitamin and mineral balance, it is necessary to feed the dog a small amount of vegetables daily, in addition to his meat ration. Chop or mash the vegetables well and mix with the meat. Add one or two slices of bread, oatmeal mush, or like cereal, together with a small amount of gravy, in order to improve the flavor and make the mixture more palatable.

*e.* As a rule, one meal a day is sufficient for a mature dog. If he is not up to his proper weight, feed one can of milk diluted with water for breakfast.

*f.* The feedings at breakfast and supper will depend upon whether the dog is to work on the night or the day shift. Never feed the heavy meal just before going to work.

*g.* The following is a sample ration for a dog weighing 50 lbs., and it can be fed from a mess hall serving field rations:

1½ lbs of beef (cooked or raw)

1 tablespoon full well-mashed carrots, spinach, greens, or tomatoes.

2 slices of bread or equivalent amount of a good cereal (either dry or cooked).

1 tablespoon full of gravy.

Mix this feed together well before feeding. These quantities depend more or less upon the amount of work a dog is doing and also upon his condition.

*h.* On these days when ham or non-approved meats are being served, ask the mess sergeant for some of the left-overs from the day before, or for some frozen meat which can be thawed out in time for today's ration of meat for your dog. Canned salmon and canned-beef stew can be used in case other foods are not available. Large bones that *cannot* be splintered are good to give the dog as an occasional delicacy.

**DRINKING WATER.**—Water should be drawn fresh as often as possible and placed in a cool and shady place within easy access of the dog at all times. Do not allow him to drink from stagnant pools. His water dish should be cleaned out daily and boiled at least once a week.



Photo by U. S. Army Signal Corps

## SECTION III—CARE

**GROOMING.**—If a dog is groomed properly every day, it will seldom be necessary to bathe him. A good brushing both with and against the lay of the hair for fifteen (15) minutes each day will keep a dog clean, and maintain his skin and hair in healthy condition. After brushing, rub the hair down with the hands. Go over the dog daily at grooming time for ticks, and remove them by hand. Ticks, lice, and fleas live and breed mostly in the ground and on the surrounding foliage. See that the dog's surroundings and bed are kept clean and disinfected, in order to lessen the presence of these external parasites.

**KENNELING.**—Do not allow your dog to sleep in a damp or unsheltered place. A rug or an old blanket, that can be washed weekly and then can be placed in a corner or under a bunk, is all that is required in this climate (Hawaii). An unclean blanket is an excellent breeding place for lice and fleas. If the dog is kenneled in an outside kennel, see that there is sufficient shade for him during the heat of the day.

**MEDICAL SERVICE.**—If your dog gives evidence

of need for medical attention call for the nearest veterinarian. In the absence of a veterinarian, any member of the medical corps will be glad to assist. Remember that a dog's *normal* temperature varies between 101 and 102 degrees Fahrenheit; a dog's normal pulse rate is quite irregular and varies between 90 and 130 per minute depending upon his size.

**SUMMARY.**—Food requirements and kenneling instructions are to be taken as a guide and they should be followed when such food and surroundings are available. In those cases where directions cannot be followed as per instructions, it is up to you to fulfill these requirements as closely as possible. A good rule to follow is to feed your dog as you would yourself, leaving out the sweet foods, and lessening the starchy foods as much as possible. Keep your dog dry and clean. Like his master, a dog does not like to be wet and dirty.

**RESPONSIBILITY.**—All dogs in this service have been enlisted for the duration of the war. While in your hands, the dog is your responsibility and must be given the best possible care.

## Organization of the Hungarian Army

About forty percent of the Hungarian Army is engaged on the Soviet-German front.

The core of the Hungarian army is formed by infantry units (seven army corps) comparatively lightly equipped. The 8th and 9th Corps organized recently include tanks and motorized infantry and motorized artillery of heavy calibers. Hungarian air strength is small. There are only two fighter regiments, and one bombardment and reconnaissance regiment.

The fundamental unit within the army corps is the regiment consisting of three infantry battalions and a number of small specialist units. In addition to this each regiment must have a reserve battalion stationed near the front lines. This battalion does not take part in action but forms a source of replacement. In actual practice, however, there are almost no such reserve battalions in the regiments.

The infantry squad consisting of 10 to 12 men is the smallest independent unit within the regiment. In units which have sustained heavy losses squads consist at the present time of not more than seven men. The squad is armed with one tommy-

gun, one machine pistol, 8 to 10 rifles, and two hand grenades to each man. The platoon consists of three squads and the company includes four infantry platoons, heavy weapons platoon, headquarters and train.

The heavy weapons platoon (24 to 30 men) is divided into the mortar and anti-tank rifle sections. The mortar section has two squads of six men each. Each squad has one 50-mm mortar. The anti-tank rifle section consists of two squads of 5 or 6 men each; each of these squads has one antitank rifle. The company numbers 160 to 190 men. In the four platoons of the machine-gun company there are twenty "Schwarzlose" machine guns. In the mortar platoon of the machine-gun company there are four 50-mm mortars and, finally, in the antitank rifle platoon of this company there are four Belgian 37-mm guns. The infantry battalion has a total strength of 600 to 900 men.

In addition to three infantry companies and the machine-gun company the battalion has a signal platoon, pioneer platoon and train. The signal platoon consists of three telephone squads of four men each (three telephone operators and a squad leader). There is also a radio section, consisting of three three-man

squads. As a rule, machine-gun companies employ radio. Due to shortage of wire the telephone line is single circuit.

In addition to three infantry and one reserve battalion the regiment has a number of specialist units. The regiment has a machine-gun company of about 100 men, divided into four four-squad platoons. The mortar company has light 81-mm mortars. The anti-tank gun company has eight 31-mm or 75-mm anti-tank guns.

The Hungarian division consists of three infantry and one artillery regiments. As independent units there should be noted the battery automatic anti-aircraft guns, anti-aircraft machine-gun company, cavalry troop, and signal company. The artillery regiment within the division consists of two battalions. Each battalion has three four-gun batteries. The first battery—75-mm guns, second battery—105-mm guns or howitzers and third battery—150-mm guns or howitzers. All guns are horse drawn.

The army corps consists of three divisions, but actually we meet corps consisting of two divisions, while the third division is either kept in reserve or is being formed.

(Krasnaya Zvezda)