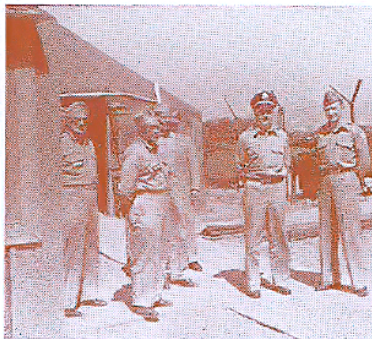


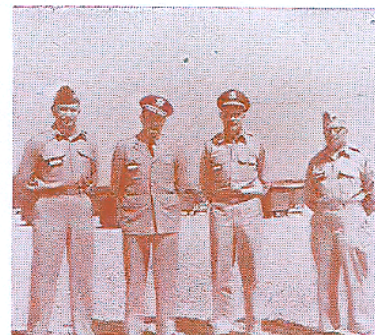
SENTRY DOGS

In the age of large supply depots and installations the Sentry Dog is becoming more important daily. A guard walking post with a Sentry Dog can cover a much larger area, with the aid of the animal's acute sense of smell and hearing, than a guard alone. There is also a definite psychological effect that the presence of a Sentry Dog has on intruders and possible intruders. In order that you may see for yourself the life of a Sentry Dog we will take you on a tour of the Vassincourt Sentry Dog Kennel Area.

First there are the dogs themselves. They are of the German Sheppard type and range from 60 pounds to 110 pounds. Most have been purchased by the United States Army but some are donated. Each dog received a complete physical at the time of purchase and has been given a brand number and a basic obedience course prior to being assigned to a unit. He also has a service record that will remain with him until his separation from the service.



Maj Brooks i Maj Johnson na inspekcji „Dog Area”.



Maj Brooks, Maj Johnson, Capt Balletine i kpt. T. Kroja-Kopec

Now for a close look at his home. For this we will take you to the Vassincourt dog area, which is the largest in Europe. This kennel area is an ideal one from the practical viewpoint. It is isolated from troop activity and heavy traffic which would be a disturbing influence on the dogs. The area is on slightly sloping ground, which provides good drainage and it has a thick layer of gravel. This allows the area to be kept clean and free from odor. The area is treeless which allows the dogs to get the benefit of the sun and helps to keep the area dry.

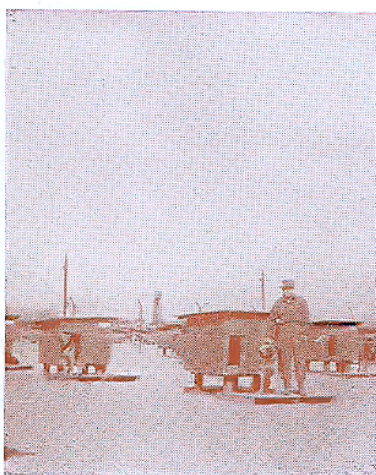
On arrival at the area each dog is assigned to a handler. He will remain with this same one through training and guard duty. Each dog is trained with his handler and will continue to be trained as long as he is in service. This training is given 2 hours a day, 3 days a week. Training consists of both obedience and agitation. The dog is given 30 minutes of training and then a 10 minute break. This is done to prevent the dog from being bored with the repetitious training. Agitation is done during the day and at night. This serves to keep the dogs alert and vigilant at all times. There is

also special training for dogs to be used inside of buildings or in fenced inclosures.

Each dog is personally cared for by his handler. The handler spends from 30 to 45 minutes a day grooming and inspecting his dog. He brushes the coat, trims the nails, checks the eyes, ears, teeth, and skin. At this time the handler can detect anything that is not normal, and can report it to the veterinarian for treatment before it becomes serious. Grooming is also important as it helps to build friendship and understanding between the dog and his handler.

The Sentry Dog is a hard worker and has a full day. His training plus 4 to 6 hours of guard duty requires a lot of stamina and energy. In order to keep the dogs in top condition he fed a balanced diet. His daily rations is 1½ pounds of dry meal and 1½ pounds of horse meat. The dog meal contains all the vitamins, minerals, protein, and carbohydrates essential to the dogs health. We have just recently completed an experiment at Vassincourt, on feeding canned horse meat in place of fresh frozen horse meat. The results were very satisfactory and it is hoped in the near future that canned meat will replace the frozen completely. Thereby reducing labor, refrigeration, and storage costs.

In order to insure that the dogs are in good health, each dog is examined at least once a week by the veterinarian. This allows the veterinarian to note any abnormal conditions and prescribe the necessary treatment. At Vassincourt there is a small, well equipped, dispensary where emergency and minor treatment can be given. For more serious cases, there is a complete equipped modern animal hospital in Verdun, and we have all the facilities needed to handle almost any case. The hospital has an X-Ray and florscope unit in addition to biological, drugs, medicine, and complete operating instruments. There are also convalescent kennels and outside runs for hospitalized dogs. A CQ is maintained at the hospital 24 hours a day for care and treatment of patients and for handling emergency cases. All these facilities are necessary for, like the soldier, whenever on sick call he is of little use in the defence of his country.



Fragment z Dog Area w Vassincourt



Defilada wartowników z psami w T.F.O.D. w dniu „Armed Forces Day” (1956 r.)

JACK G BALLENTINE
CAPT VC
Detachment Commander