



Training the Scout Dog

## 42d Scout Dog Platoon

Man's best friend can be man's worst enemy, but only if he is properly trained. It is the lot of the 42d Scout Dog Platoon to be responsible for the safety, health and training of the courageous animals that have caused not a few canine names to be inscribed on rolls of honor commemorating 1st Div war heroes.

The marriage of man and dog in combat is difficult to establish. The man must be trained as carefully as the dog; he must understand that his first responsibility is the safety and health of the animal charged to him. He must train his animal to be a killer, but he must train him to kill the right person, in the right place at the right time. That is a large responsibility.

The training program is long and rugged. It requires infinite patience both on the part of animal and man.

It is the Army's job to train an animal to react instantly to human situations and human commands. The difficulty of the task may be readily understood if one considers that any man would be very slow to jump calmly and accurately through a burning hoop simply because someone told him to jump. Yet that is precisely one of the training problems the 42d Scout Dog is required to perform before he can be credited as a properly trained war dog.

The 42d Scout Dog Platoon provides for the 1st Div a highly trained nerve center of animal intelligence that is capable of scenting, tracking and if necessary, killing the enemy. Because no possible center of strength can be overlooked in the establishment of a superior fighting unit, the Division recognized early the assets of an animal unit that could be as much counted on for loyalty and dependability as its troops. Man's best friend is the Division's best friend too.