

## DOGS OF WAR

### Four-Footed Heroes

**D**OGS will no doubt play a greater part in this war than they did in the last, not only as mascots and companions, but on the actual fields of battle.

Over 7,000 dogs were killed on all fronts in the 1914-18 campaign. When the war broke out Germany had 6,000 trained war dogs; France had trained them for ambulance work and Belgium used them for the transport of machine guns.

Many New Zealanders will remember, too, the sturdy dogs which pulled the tiny milk carts through the cobbled streets of Armentieres which the Division was stationed there.

Dog mascots were numerous. Several New Zealand units had them, but the animals were left behind when the men sailed from these shores for service overseas. Many of the British brigades took their mascots to France. There was Crump, for instance, a little Belgian dog which resembled an active scrap of fur. He accompanied General Sir Stuart Wortley everywhere in France and was a familiar sight, often sitting in the General's car smoking a cigarette. This was his only vice—he loved both his pipe and his cigarette!

### Saviour of Verdun

Many heroic stories about dogs remain from the last war and several of them wore the decorations of the brigades or their masters. Satan, the French dog which saved Verdun, will go down in history. The story of how he carried two pigeons across a stretch of country raked by German artillery and machine gun fire was told in last week's issue of *The Listener*. All the soldiers who had tried to cross that area had been killed, and the garrison to which Satan brought help had given up all hope. They had held up the German advance and were isolated under a pitiless barrage which threatened to wipe them out. Satan's leg was broken by a bullet, but he struggled on to find his owner, who was one of the French garrison.

Michael was a British dog, trained by Lt.-Col. Richardson who was in charge of a school at Shoeburyness for training dogs for military service. He did wonderful liaison work between headquarters and advancing forces, carrying messages in a small canister tied to his collar. Michael, an Airedale, was unafraid of shells or bullets and seemingly led a charmed life.

But there were many dogs whose names are unknown. Those patient, faithful animals, which were sent out across territory dominated by enemy gunfire with rolls of telephone wire and cable attached to their backs, saved many lives and brought relief at critical moments when all communication had been destroyed. There were the 440 "huskies" brought from Alaska which, within four days of landing in France, had transported 90 tons of ammunition and supplies to stranded batteries on

the point of giving up hope. The Italians made wonderful use of the magnificent St. Bernard for the transport of food and ammunition in mountainous country along their northern frontiers.

### A Remarkable Journey

No one has ever discovered how Prince, half-terrier, half-collie, left London and ultimately found his master, a British private, in the trenches near Armentieres, but the story was verified by the English press. James Brown, Prince's owner, was sent to France in 1914, leaving the dog in Ireland. Mrs. Brown later moved to London, taking the dog with her. A fortnight later Prince found his master, after crossing the Channel and travelling some hundreds of miles overland. He was adopted by the regiment and stayed in France for the duration of the war, killing



A dog laying a telephone wire

thousands of rats which infested the trenches. His greatest bag for one day was 137.

Rin-Tin-Tin, the famous film dog, was born in the German trenches near Metz. He was found there by an American officer, taken to the United States after the war, and ultimately earned £500 a week as a film "star." Tommy, another German dog captured by the Canadians near Amiens in 1915, always went over the top with his regiment. He bore a charmed life and was owned in succession by fifteen officers who were either killed or wounded. In one attack he lost an eye and his body was scarred by numerous wounds.

Towards the later stages of the war the French used sentry dogs in the trenches and it was one of these dogs which killed a German messenger dog that had lost its way and enabled the French to discover much useful information from the dispatches the animal carried.

### Detecting The Enemy

Sergeant-Major Mac was bought from a French woman in Amiens in 1917 and stayed with the British

troops until the end of the war, even going through to Germany. He could distinguish between Allied and enemy aircraft, and on the approach of German planes overhead he would lie on the ground and snarl. This dog was wounded and gassed and followed the troops into battle. Another remarkable dog was Yel, who belonged to a British naval officer. He spent the war with his master on a ship doing transport and convoy work in the Channel and off the coast. He could detect the approach of enemy submarines. "So long as Yel is quiet we know we are safe" the officers of the ship declared.

Peggy, a yellow brindle bulldog, joined H.M.S. Iron Duke as a pup and was in the Battle of Jutland in 1916. She was presented with a medal specially struck in her honour and died on the ship, mourned by all the sailors.

### Served Under Three Flags

Max, a powerful collie, served under three flags. He was trained by the

Russians, captured by the Germans, and later by the British. He understood orders in all three languages and could capture a man. Max would never injure his prisoner unless commanded to do so. Then he would bite—hard and deep.

Old Bill, the mascot of H.M.S. Falmouth, was rescued from a German trawler in August, 1914. He was wounded three times at Jutland and was rescued from Falmouth when she was torpedoed.

The British sailors and soldiers loved their dogs and went to endless trouble to care for them. During the retreat on the Marne in 1918 a war dog gave birth to a litter of seven pups. A British soldier carried them for 50 miles until the weight forced him to destroy all but two. It is recorded, also, how a British sailor, hanging on the scuppers when H.M.S. Falmouth was torpedoed, almost lost his life saving a dog which had slid along the deck and planted itself on the sailor's chest. On another occasion the officers and men of one ship in the Mediterranean were so anxious for the return of their dog that a destroyer was sent to bring him back after he had been put ashore through illness.

## Personal

Colonel F. T. Bowerbank has been appointed Director General of Medical Services, and Lieut.-Colonel W. H. B. Bull, Assistant Director of Medical Services.

Lieut.-Colonel H. K. Kippenberger, who is in command of the Third Rifle Battalion at Burnham, is a lawyer in private life. He is 42 years of age and lives at Rangiora, North Canterbury. Colonel Kippenberger is an authority on military history.

Lieut.-Colonel F. S. Varnham, M.C., O.C. Second Rifle Battalion at Trentham, is a Gallipoli man and has taken a great interest in the territorial movement ever since the last war. He is manager of the "Taranaki Daily Herald," and lives at New Plymouth.

Lieut.-Colonel J. R. Gray, O.C. First Rifle Battalion at Ngaruawahia, is a lawyer who formerly practised in Auckland. He has been a keen soldier in the territorial units.

Lieut.-Colonel B. S. Finn is Director of Dental Services.

Lieut.-Colonel A. E. Conway has been appointed Director of Mobilisation.

Major George Clifton, M.C., New Zealand Staff Corps, who has been appointed to the Engineers, at Ngaruawahia, has seen service on the North-West Frontier, India.

Major Earl Hunt, New Zealand Staff Corps, has been appointed Camp Commandant at Trentham. He has a distinguished record for his organising ability.

Major R. W. Fenton, New Zealand Artillery, was manager of the Government film studios at Miramar.

Major A. B. Ross was officer commanding the N.Z. Scottish Regiment until he went into camp. He was Under-Secretary in the External Affairs Department.

Major J. N. Peart, now in camp at Ngaruawahia, is headmaster of King's College, Manurewa.

Major Sinclair Reid, M.C., manager of John Reid and Co., Auckland, is Camp Quartermaster at Ngaruawahia.

Staff-Captain A. R. Cockrell was the only Second Lieutenant of the N.Z. Expeditionary Force of 1914-18 who was awarded a D.S.O.

Captain R. W. Haddow, Acting Camp Adjutant and Quartermaster at Trentham, is an old Rifle Brigade officer, with a fine record in the 1914-18 campaign. He has been responsible for much of the organisation at Trentham.

Captain Keith Glasgow, N.Z. Artillery, is headmaster of Scots College, Wellington. Captain T. G. Bedding is also from Scots College.

Captain H. M. Lewis, Secretary of Potter and Burke, N.Z., Ltd., is with the Field Artillery at Ngaruawahia.

Two well-known All Blacks are in camp, Captain J. T. Burrows and Lieut. R. H. Wynyard.

Lieut. J. E. F. Vogel, Quartermaster for the Rifle Battalion at Trentham, is a well-known Wellingtonian and Commissioner of the Boy Scouts.