

American

February, 1943: p. 113



ALENE ERLANGER, of New York, holds the leashes of the nation's war dogs. After selling generals on the idea of using dogs in combat, she organized Dogs for Defense, which is now recruiting 125,000 pooches for the Army. As Civilian Consultant to the Quartermaster General, she supervises training. Her military mutts—hundreds of which are already serving overseas—have become tough fighters. Scotties burrow under barbed wire and dash ahead of scouting parties to locate machine-gun nests and snipers. Huskier dogs act as sentries, go out under enemy fire to locate wounded men, and even trail telephone wires across battlefields from containers on their necks. Some bail out of planes with paratroopers, others have been trained as plane spotters. Mrs. Erlanger wants her dogs to be from one to five years old, smart, suspicious of strangers. As a guide for training she's written a Field Manual. This breezy sportswoman spends most of her week ends at home with her husband, a businessman, and her two teen-age daughters. She was famous in the dog world long before the war as the owner of America's No. 1 show dog, Rumpelstiltskin, a classy French poodle. She's enlisted nine of her own poodles, but not Rumpelstiltskin, who's too temperamental for Army life. Below, she appears with one of her recruits, a sturdy shepherd dog.

Dogs for Defense, Inc. DFD

National Headquarters

22 East 60th Street

New York



Dogs for Defense, Inc. is the sole official dog procurement agency for the United States Army, delivering over 400 dogs a week to be used for our armed forces. Wherever our men go, there goes man's faithful companion—the dog, doing his part in the great war effort. Dogs must be over 20 inches to shoulder, over fifty pounds in weight, and from one to five years old. Practically all breeds can be used. At first the training of these dogs was inaugurated and executed by Dogs for Defense, but after the first 500 had been trained, the Army took over. Now DFD is concentrating on procuring dogs.

The organization has thirty-five regional directors (some of whom are women) operating induction centers in all parts of the United States and in Honolulu. The Army takes the dogs to Remount Branches of the Quartermaster Corps for training. These include Fort Royal, Virginia, Fort Robinson, Nebraska, San Mateo, California and Camp Rimini, Montana. Dogs are trained for sentry duty, to be aggressive, and to act as messengers. Our armed forces need 125,000 dogs. If you wish to help this campaign write to Dogs for Defense.

