

British K-9 Tracks Enemy

BONG SON (USA)—Shadow, an 81-pound, British-born, black Labrador retriever is an essential member of Combat Tracker Team # attached to the 1st Air Cavalry Division.

He's the only member of the five-man, one-dog team who can track with his nose.

Specialist 4 John E. Dotson, Shadow's handler, said that the husky, playful dog can go 48 hours on the job, with almost no rest.

"His endurance is much better than a German Shepherd's or even a bloodhound's," he pointed out.

Purchased fully-trained by the U.S. government for \$1,800, Shadow makes an art of

keeping himself comfortable, even under the worst conditions.

Whenever he can find a pool of water large enough, Shadow will jump right in and lie down, in order to keep himself cool.

Specialist Dotson carries four quarts of water when the team goes out on a mission, two for himself and two for Shadow.

He said, however, that Shadow rarely needs water from a canteen because he can drink freely out of rice paddies without ill effects. For food, he'll eat anything, including grass, Specialist Dotson added.

On the trail, of course, Shadow never barks nor causes disturbances. He is not put on a

leash until a track is identified for him to follow. Then he is put in a harness with a 30-foot tether.

"If I didn't keep him tied when he's on a track," Specialist Dotson exclaimed, "Shadow would take off down the trail and wouldn't stop till he'd reached the end. We'd never find him or the person he was tracking."

Specialist Dotson pointed out that Shadow is in no way vicious and would probably let a Viet Cong soldier pet him, even if the soldier was the person he was tracking.

"Shadow's pretty defenseless without the rest of the team," he exclaimed.

Just before I arrived at team # 8