

Combat-Bound Scout Dogs Highly Trained at Benning

TAN SON NHUT, Viet Nam —There's an old Army scout dog buried in the animal cemetery at Fort Benning. His name is York, and he made quite a record for himself during the Korean War. York took out 165 combat patrols and brought them back without losing a man.

The scout dog is fast being put to use again.

Lieutenant Ralph Harrison is taking 27 men and their dogs to Cu Chi, where he hopes some similar records can be set as they work with the 25th Infantry Division.

The lieutenant commands the 38th Scout Dog Infantry Platoon that just arrived from a three-month training course at Fort Benning. The dogs and handlers are presently at Tan Son Nhut getting used to the climate and brushing up on their combat training.

The dogs will be used for several types of operations. Lt. Harrison says. This includes combat and recon patrols, sweeping operations, village clearing missions and security. Their noses are keyed to detect ambush, buried mines and trip wires.

"Our main concern now is

to prove the value of the dogs," said Lt. Harrison, an OCS officer from New Smyrna Beach, Fla. "We want the rifleman to have confidence in the dog's performance."

The scout dog platoon leader has good reasons to believe in his dogs. He, his platoon and the dogs have just completed a tough 12-week training course at Fort Benning.

They trained with the help of U. S. Army Rangers, paratroopers and officer candidates. They took their dogs through rugged obstacle courses, dense foliage and hills. They swam rivers with them, and the dogs became

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the dogs found all but two men

The handlers know their dogs. They know he won't bark while on patrol. They know their dog can smell 40 times better than they can, that he can hear 20 times better and see 10 times as well

The 38th dog platoon is formed of three squads. The NCO's are operations-intelligence specialists, and the rest of the men are trained infantrymen. LT Harrison attended Air Force dog school before joining and activating the 38th last March.

Dogs have been a part of war for centuries. The Romans put spiked collars around their necks and sent them against the adversary as fighters. Napoleon's dogs are credited with having turned the tide of more than one battle.

The Germans used dogs extensively during both World Wars. In World War II, they mustered 200,000 dogs. The Japanese also used dogs during World War II, and the Viet Cong are using dogs now.

Scout Dogs

acquainted with the helicopter.

In one company-sized escape and evasion problem