

Chapter 1

Cappy, the Hero

Tommy was the proud and happy owner of an Airedale terrier given him by his uncle who was an Army officer. The dog's name was Captain, but Tommy affectionately called him "Cappy." Cappy was large and powerfully built, but lame in his front right leg. He was no ordinary dog, as Tommy eagerly explained to everyone he knew. "Cappy was trained for war work," he said, "and my Uncle Jack said he never failed in his duty, but he got hurt in action." Tommy fairly burst with pride as he told the story of the dog as his Uncle Jack had told him.

"Cappy was on sentry duty, and he had to guard some ammunition that had lately been brought in. My Uncle Jack said that day and night soldiers and dogs were guarding it. This night Cappy was on one side, with his soldier teammate, Barney, nearby. Suddenly Cappy saw something moving in the dark. His body stiffened, and just then Barney came near him and noticed his attitude. At once he looked in the same direction as Cappy, and he, too, saw indistinctly the moving figure. He stepped behind a pile of material to watch, and Cappy remained where he was, motionless. The figure disappeared, then came into view again, and suddenly made a dash across the open space to the piled ammunition. In a flash, Cappy leaped on the man, knocking him down. Then Barney came on the scene. There was a struggle, and Cappy's leg was struck by the butt end of a revolver; but he still held on."

Here Tommy paused, and patted Cappy's head. Then he went on: "My Uncle Jack said that the man was afterward found to be an enemy alien, and that it was his intention to blow up the ammunition. And it was Cappy who spoiled his game!"

While this story was being told, - and it was repeated many times, - Cappy made no sign that he might be the hero of it. In fact, we know he did not feel like a hero- - it was all in the line of duty.

Between Tommy and Cappy a great affection developed, and Tommy felt deep admiration for the dog whose bravery and obedience to Army training had proved so valuable. "I guess, mom," he said one day, "a fellow's got to learn to obey or he can't ever ask anyone to obey

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him, and he wouldn't be worth much to his country - not half as much as Captain." And Tommy's mother never afterward found it necessary to reprove her small son for disobedience.