

^{Almost} **The Complete History of the** **Working Sealyham Terrier**

To write about the Sealyham type working terrier used in the field today it is necessary to look at the stories of where this type originated.

It is no coincidence that when we examine the histories of almost every terrier breed registered with the Kennel Club, we find the same methods used to obtain breed recognition.

1. A person with an interesting story or some remote place is named as the source.
2. The dogs that were used to establish the original strain must be clouded in mystery.
3. Inbreeding and culling must form the basis to stamp a type, colour, coat or size. If a genetic mutation for any of these traits is present it must be singled out to establish a recognisable difference.
4. A sponsor of considerable wealth, time or influence must take up the cause and produce hundreds of pups annually to feed the kennel club rolls.
5. It is irrelevant that the show terriers today bear absolutely no resemblance to the original strain of dogs and it is no surprise that the working dogs today look exactly like littermates of these first dogs.

Unfortunately the Show Sealyham terrier that is best known by the general public has all of these ingredients in its background. Using the points above we can examine the history as written previously for the KC dog and using photographs from that time verify or dispel some of these stories.

From there we can piece together the probable source of the Working Sealyham type used by terriermen in the field today.

1. The Place and the Person.



Sealyham Hall



Pembrokeshire, Wales.

No one knows the exact date of Sealyham estate and hall. In fact, as far as county histories can tell, it has always been there, though probably rebuilt more than once.

Through the grounds run the Sealy river, from which the estate takes its name, a quick flowing little stream, rising in the Precelli mountain range not many miles off, and ending its short life a mile further down outside the lodge gates, where it flows into the Western Cleddau river.



Precelli range



Cleddau River

It is seldom that the otter hounds tried the Sealy without finding, while the beautiful woods through which the long drive twists and turns are the haunts of badgers, of which there are many earths, rather mixed up with those of foxes, to be found even today.



Captain John Tucker Edwardes (1809-1891)

Captain John Tucker Edwardes was born in 1809. He joined the 23rd Regiment (Royal Welsh Fusiliers), and served at Gibraltar with them, where he hunted the Calpe Foxhounds. Even while abroad hunting appears to have been in Edwardes blood and he took every opportunity to get out in the field.

On returning to his own county after his mother's death, he retired in 1848 at the age of 40 and devoted his retirement to hunting. He spent his days hunting the fox, otters, badger and polecats in the terrain around his home where he ran packs of foxhounds and otterhounds, the ruined kennels of which are to be seen by the woods down the drive. With these packs he used small local terriers and it appears that these terriers did not suit Edwardes for many reasons.

His younger brother, Captain Owen Edwardes, afterwards of Sealyham, also went in largely for terriers, though his do not seem to have been of so distinct or marked a type as those of his brother.

Fond of every kind of sport, John devoted much of his time and experience to perfecting his favourite strain of terriers, carefully keeping the ideal points meant for work in front of him. As he grew older he was seldom seen without them

It is a rare thing to get a photograph of a terrier owned by the Edwardes and rarer still to see one of their favourite and noted dogs. This photograph below did appear in the "Field". "Dusty was reported to be 12 pounds weight in 1880, 32 years into Edwardes breeding and selection program. This was his legacy and he gifted one of his best dogs to Lord Kensington (Later Breed sponsor).



DUSTY: ONE OF THE EARLY SEALYHAM TERRIERS.

"Dusty" a noted Sealyham terrier in her day presented to Lord Kensington, (Later breed sponsor) captain in the 2nd Life Guards, by John Edwardes, of Sealyham, who considered her to be one of his best terriers. Her colouring was lemon, darker on the ears, but with no black hairs. Her coat was usually much worn, but when shut up for a time her jacket became thick and harsh. Her tail was undocked. Comparison between the past and present type of any variety of dog is interesting and though exception may be taken to the size of "Dustys" ears, we question whether any Sealyham of today is so straight in front, judged by the photograph.

Edwardes it is believed, always gave his terriers names which commenced with "D", and a dog of this strain called Deuce used to win at the local agricultural livestock shows in Carmarthen around 1860.

In December, 1918, F. Freeman Lloyd wrote that he believed he was the oldest of the living public writers on dogs and kindred subjects who had the pleasure of knowing the late John Edwardes, his son Mr."Johnnie" Edwardes, their hounds and terriers, and had hunted with both of them.

That was the time when the districts north of Haverfordwest were "swarming" - to use a localism, with these white and generally lemon-marked (about the ears) terriers of Sealyham.

Freeman Lloyd believed that the name Sealyham was a made name for old terriers and did not think Sealyhams bore that name in those days, say of forty to fifty years earlier (1860-1870).



The Artist SAMUEL RAVEN who died in 1847 the year before John returned to Wales. Painting of "AN INQUISITIVE TERRIER" dispels the myth that Edwardes created a strong wire coated terrier with tan markings. Edwardes refined it for serious underground work, but these terriers were there before him.

He also noticed that a badly informed field were being misled, as a great deal was being written about Sealyhams and their ability to go up drain-pipes of certain diameters. It is thought that neither John Edwardes nor his son Johnnie Edwardes had ever any idea about the circumstance of such a retreat for an otter, after all, the Sealyham was bred for otter-hunting, or rather going to one in a holt or up the drains that convey the meadows moisture into the brooks that run into "the big river." There is a lot of waste slate, the king of stone in Pembrokeshire, and these jagged flags are placed on end in the drains, and the water wearing away the softer of these uprights of soft stone, there are capital places for an otter to take refuge a very long way from the river, and it would be for such an occasion that the smaller terrier would be the dog. He would have to squeeze himself through, go wherever a bitch otter could go, and generally, if not always, with his belly in the water or mud. That was the kind of drain the Sealyham terrier was originally bred for and the local conditions demanded such a dog. (Refer to Appendix 1 for information of the Slate Quarry on the Sealyham estate.)

After the death of the two brothers, John in 1891 in his eighty-second year (His only son Johnnie Edwardes died 6 months later) and Owen 1893, the Sealyhams went down sadly in the world, and became scattered all over the country.

10 years later in 1903, John's daughter in law Mrs Edwardes (later Mrs Victor Higgins) of Sealyham, made an effort to revive the standard of the old breed by offering prizes at Haverfordwest dog show.

Baron Kensington and Fred Lewis were among those who valued Tucker-Edwardes' heritage and became pioneers of the breed under the affixes Kensington's and Bach. Lewis's Sealyhams were pictured in nearly every contemporary dog book.

The first entry was certainly a success as far as numbers went, but evenness of type was hardly there, every crossbred low-legged terrier in the county at all resembling the Sealyham being entered.

The class created much derision amongst English fox terrier men, one well known authority declaring that when he bred puppies like those he drowned them. However, the class was such a success in point of numbers and aroused such interest that the popularity of the show variety was at once established, and Mrs Edwardes continued giving the prizes for some years till the classes could quite well pay for themselves.



Then, one day in the smoking room at Sealyham, a quartet of interested owners - namely, Catherine Higgon (formerly Ms Edwardes), her husband Victor, Capt. J.H. Howell (Master of Foxhounds) and Adrian Howell, agreed to make an attempt to start a Sealyham Terrier Club and sent out notices to all the local papers to call together those interested to discuss the question. The club was started in 1908 and was lucky enough to get as a president (Sponsor) Lord Kensington, who has become such a successful breeder.



Hugh Edwardes (1873–1938)
6th Baron Kensington

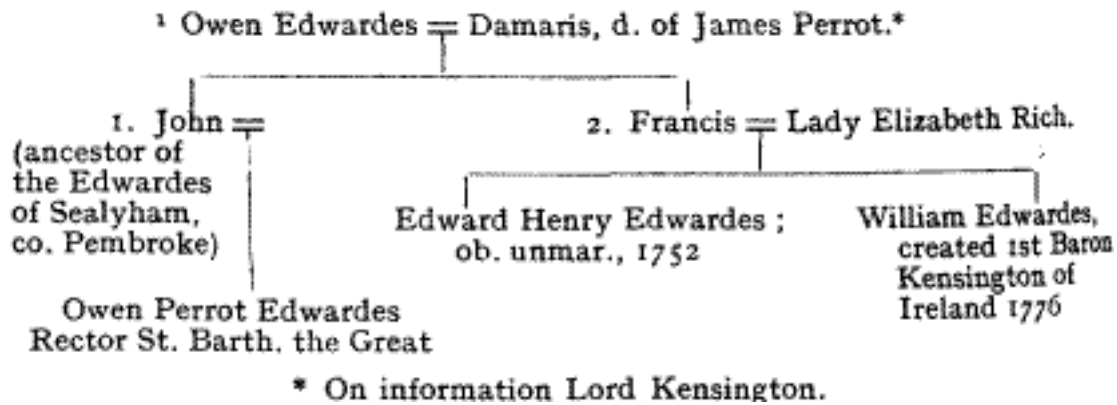


His father (Contemporary of John Edwardes)
William Edwardes (1835 – 1896)
4th Baron Kensington

The best dog, bitch, brace and team at the Crystal Palace Show in October 1910, the first time the breed was accorded classes at a big English show, were from Hugh Edwards kennel.

It seems that the judge on the day knew that you do not bite the hand that feeds you.

The club was also fortunate in persuading Mr J.H. Howell (M.F.H.) to become honorary secretary.

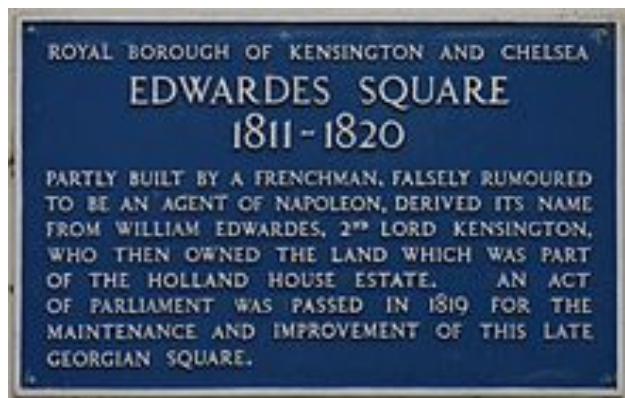


The link between John Tucker Edwardes (Of Sealyham) and William and Hugh Edwardes (Lord Kensington) was both as a powerful friend and a kinsman.

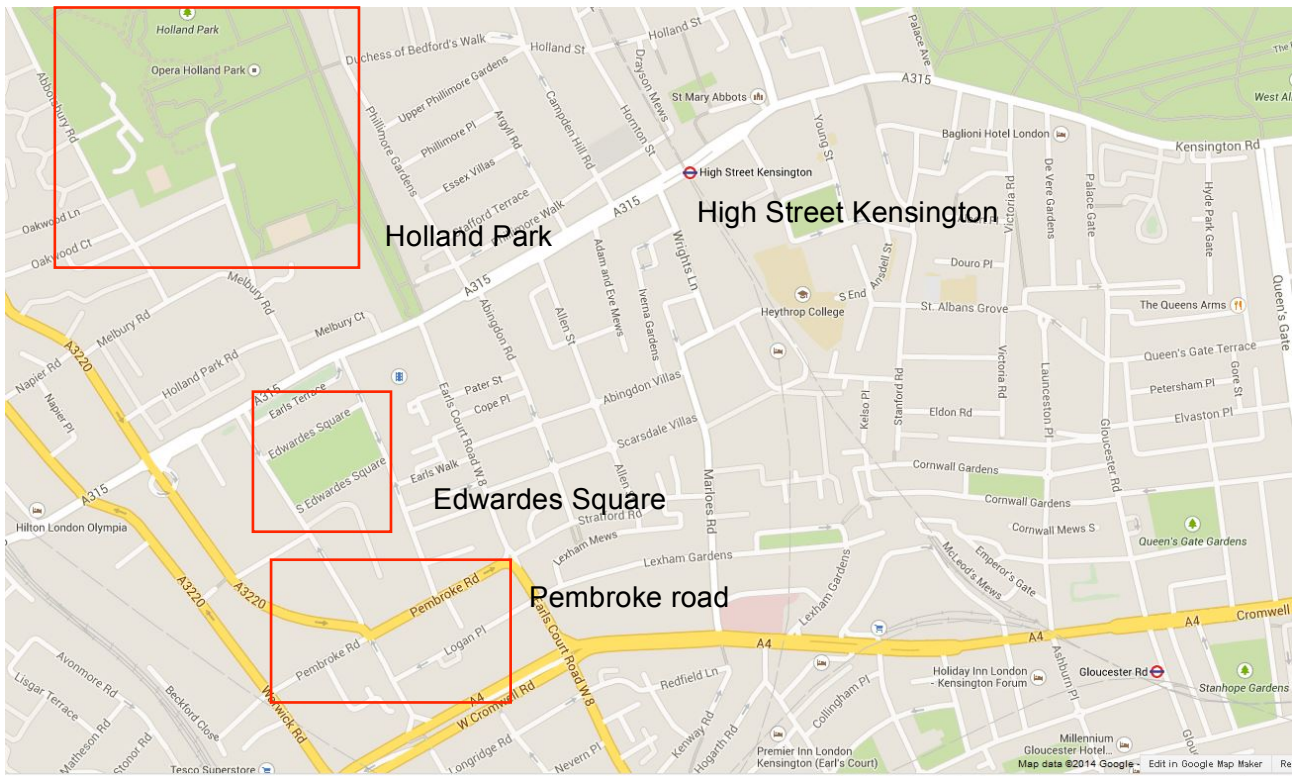
The Edwardes family owned extensive lands in Pembrokeshire, Francis Edwardes of St. Brides married Lady Elizabeth Rich, only daughter and heiress of Robert, 2nd Earl of Holland, 5th Earl of Warwick and Baron Kensington. The inheritance included Holland House estate (Kensington) at a time when Property in central London was at a premium.



Kensington under development in 1909



Display in Edwardes square today



Kensington today showing Holland Park, Edwardes Square and Pembroke Road.

Their heir was William Edwardes, 1st Bart (d. 1801) who was created Baron Kensington in 1776. He served as M.P. for Haverfordwest 1747-1801.

The Families investments allowed the 4th Baron to purchase Saint Brides Castle and estate, the area where Francis Edwardes of St. Brides originally hailed from.



Saint Brides Castle in 1905, white terrier in foreground.

In 1873 Lord Kensington owned 7,471 acres in Pembrokeshire, Radnorshire, Carmarthenshire and Cardiganshire. The family continued in possession of the estate until 1920 when Hugh Edwardes, 6th Bart (1873-1938), sold 3,662 acres to Carmarthenshire County Council.



Lord Kensington's Sealyham St. Brides Delight by Arthur Wardle

John Edwardes daughter-in-law, Mrs Victor Higgon, continued to live at Sealyham Hall for many years and she continued to breed, judge and show Sealyhams with the affix "of Sealy" until the Second World War.

2. The Strain

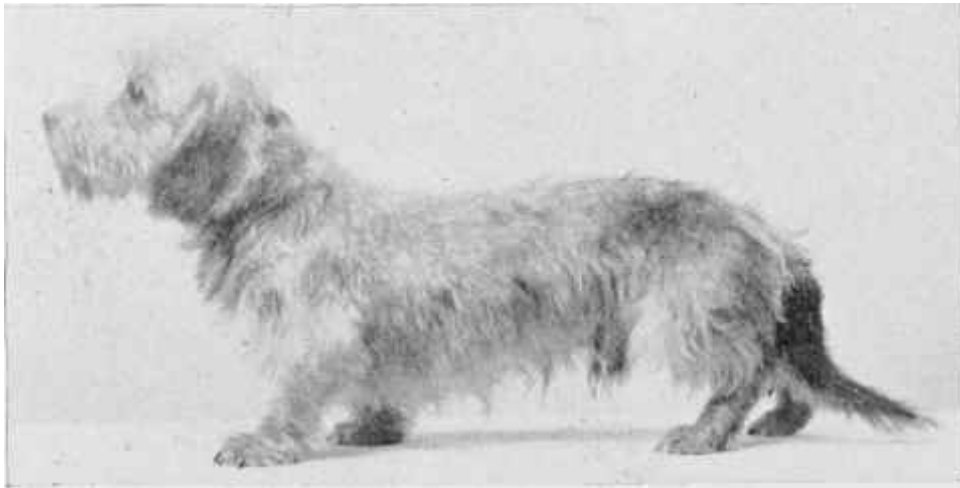
When looking for the original strain before John Edwardes returned to Sealyham in 1848 it is important to look at what dogs were available for him to select from.

Four breeds are usually mentioned in the development of the strain. From the following brief histories of these breeds it can be seen that none of them were available as a distinct breed for Edwardes to select from in 1848.

At best he would have been choosing from the original stock that produced some of these breeds.

In historical terms Edwardes Sealyham terriers of 1848 to 1878 (when Edwardes had reached 70 years of age) preceded all of these established breeds as they became known through the Kennel Club shows.

1. The Dandie Dinmont terrier.



Early Photograph of a Dandie Dinmont terrier (circa 1900)

As this breed is one of the oldest on record it is best to quote from an authority at the time.

The following section is from the book

*"British Dogs: Their Varieties, History, Characteristics, Breeding, Management, And Exhibition",
by **Hugh Dalziel**. In 1897.*

*When first formed in 1875 there were 2 joint secretaries of the Dandie Dinmont Terrier Club, William Strachan of
Linlithgow, Scotland and **Hugh Dalziel** of London, a well known journalist on Dog Matters in the 1870's.*

The Rev. J. C. Macdonald was, I believe, the first to give publicity to the following unquestionably important document, which he met with in researches he made some ten or twelve years ago (1885) into the early history of the breed; it is described as being in the handwriting of James Davidson, with his initials attached, written on old hand-made letter paper, yellow with years and bearing all the evidences of being genuine. The memorandum was originally sent by Mr. Davidson to the Hon. George H. Bailie, of Mellerstain, and is as follows:-

"1800. " Tuggin, from A. Armstrong, reddish and wiry. Tarr, reddish and wiry-haired, a bitch. Pepper, shaggy and light, Mr. Brown, of Bonjedward. The race of Dandies are bred from the two last. "J. D."

Although Mr. Davidson fixed the character of these dogs for us, it has never been said of him that he created the breed, and how they were first produced must remain a matter of speculation; but that he is a manufactured article, and not a true terrier, I think there can be no doubt, and no theory I have heard broached seems to me to have so much evidence in favour of its correctness as that of "Stonehenge," given in his book "The Dog," published in 1859, namely, a cross with a low-legged **Scottish terrier** with **the otter hound or rough harrier**. The Dandie Dinmont muzzle is too massive and square for a terrier, and in that feature, and unmistakably in the size, shape, and set on of his ears and the carriage of his stern he shows the hound cross.

I will go further, and say - although I know I shall be considered a schismatic for venturing to express such a heterodox opinion - a judicious infusion of foreign blood would be a good thing for the breed, if of no other use than to check the tremendous mortality among puppies of which nearly all breeders complain.

Mr. Charles Collins and Mr. Matthias Smith did ten years ago, say that " the Dandie Dinmonts north of the Tweed ***are long-backed to strange deformity, legs shorter than any other breed (not excepting the dachshund of Germany), faces as long as crocodiles and jaws as strong, small pig-like eyes, ears small and erect (one may fall over at the tip), coat not very long, but hard and erect as bristles from top to toe.***

The subjects of our engraving is the dog "Shamrock". he has been longer before the public than any other Dandie, and is acknowledged one of the best ever shown



REV. T. MOSSE'S DANDIE DINMONT "SHAMROCK" (K.C.S.B. 3089).

Sire Mr. Hodges' Mustard - Dam Mr. Broadwith's Vic.

The fact is, in my opinion, we have claimed too much for the dog; enthusiasm has idealised him, and strong desire has created good qualities as inherent and never wanting in the breed, but which are not always found. It is a mistake to claim for every Dandie all the best attributes of a terrier; as a class there is no dog more game, and with gameness they generally possess considerable intelligence and tractability; but I have known Dandies of the bluest blood that were worth very little.

By the mid-1800s, the breed was known as the Dandie Dinmont Terrier
The Kennel Club was formed in 1873 and in 1875, the Dandie Dinmont Terrier Club (DDTC) was formed, becoming the third oldest breed club for dogs in the world (behind the Bedlington and Bulldog)
By 1875 Edwardes would have been breeding his strain of terrier for 27 years, he may have used a terrier like the Dandie Dinmont from the border counties but he would not have known it was a separate breed.

At one of these early dog shows, how closely the Dandie and the Bedlington breeds were allied became obvious when the Earl of Antrim won prizes in both Bedlington and Dandie classes with 2 dogs out of the same bitch and by the same sire.



Bedlington and Dandie (circa 1890)



Dandie 1909

This was a perfect example of the dwarfism gene coming through in a litter and siblings being exhibited in classes for two different “breeds”. In the preceding image note how the dog in front appears to have a long back, in fact his back is the same length as the Bedlington terrier behind him. It was the result of the mutation of the dwarf gene that shortens the legs.



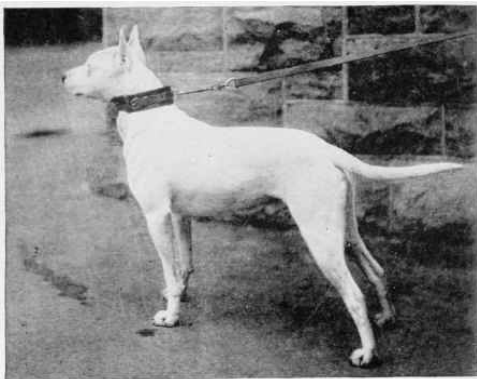
Dwarfism can affect any species or breed. Mate Dwarf/Dwarf and you get a Dwarf strain.

In the following photograph note the crooked front legs and oversize head of the dogs.



Peter Scott of Tedburgh an early pioneer of the Danie Dinmont breed

2. The Bull terrier



"Monarch" a Typical type.



Hinks "Tarquin" 1860's (Cropped ears)

James Hinks a native of Birmingham developed the English Bull terrier in the 1860's. His strain of white dogs was not well established until the 1870's, 22 years after Edwardes started his breeding program.

There is mention of a "Cheshire terrier" a small bull terrier type, but no evidence seems to exist to confirm this specific strain of dogs.

Hinks "Tarquin" is one of the first terriers to display the familiar Bull terrier dome head.



FIG. 93.—MR. H. E. MONK'S BULL-TERRIER BLOSSBURY BURGE.



Bull types 1900's. note the ear set.

To be continued.....

3. West Highland White terrier.



Colonel Malcolm's famous eleven. Note the variance in style, especially ears, legs and coat lengths. In particular look at the bowed legs and drop ears of the dog in front.

Robert Leighton in his "Complete Book of the Dog" dismisses out of hand both the Dandie Dinmont and the Bull terrier and puts forward the West Highland White Terrier instead as being the breed that Mr Edwards used. He bases his argument on Edwardes friendship with the Marquis of Bute who owned estates in Wales and was a personal friend of Colonel Malcolm in Scotland, on whose estate the West Highland White Terrier was "first bred".

This small white dog strain came about due to a hunting accident. It is said that around the year 1860, Colonel Edward Donald Malcolm of Poltalloch (1837 -1930) was out hunting with his favourite terrier, a reddish-brown dog. While the dog was running through the bush, he was mistaken for a fox and was shot and killed.

The Colonel was so grieved by the loss of his dog that he decided to propagate only the whites in his kennel. It took a great many years for the Malcolm family to develop the white strain that we know today.

If that is the case there were not many "White Cairns" around in 1848 and it would have being many years later (possibly 1870 at the earliest) before they were available, 28 years after Edwardes started his strain.

4. The Fox terrier.



Old Tipp 1866



Pincher 1869

The first wire fox terrier which is authentically recorded was OLD TIP. He was bred by the Master of the Sinnington Hounds, in Yorkshire around 1866. The dog was never shown but was bred and used solely for work. Although his actual pedigree is unknown Old Tip is the source from which all present-day Wire Fox terriers emanate. Old Tip sired three champion sons from dams of unknown breeding, one of these, PINCHER, born 1869, he was mated to his own daughter and this union produced OLD JESTER in 1875



Old Jester 1875



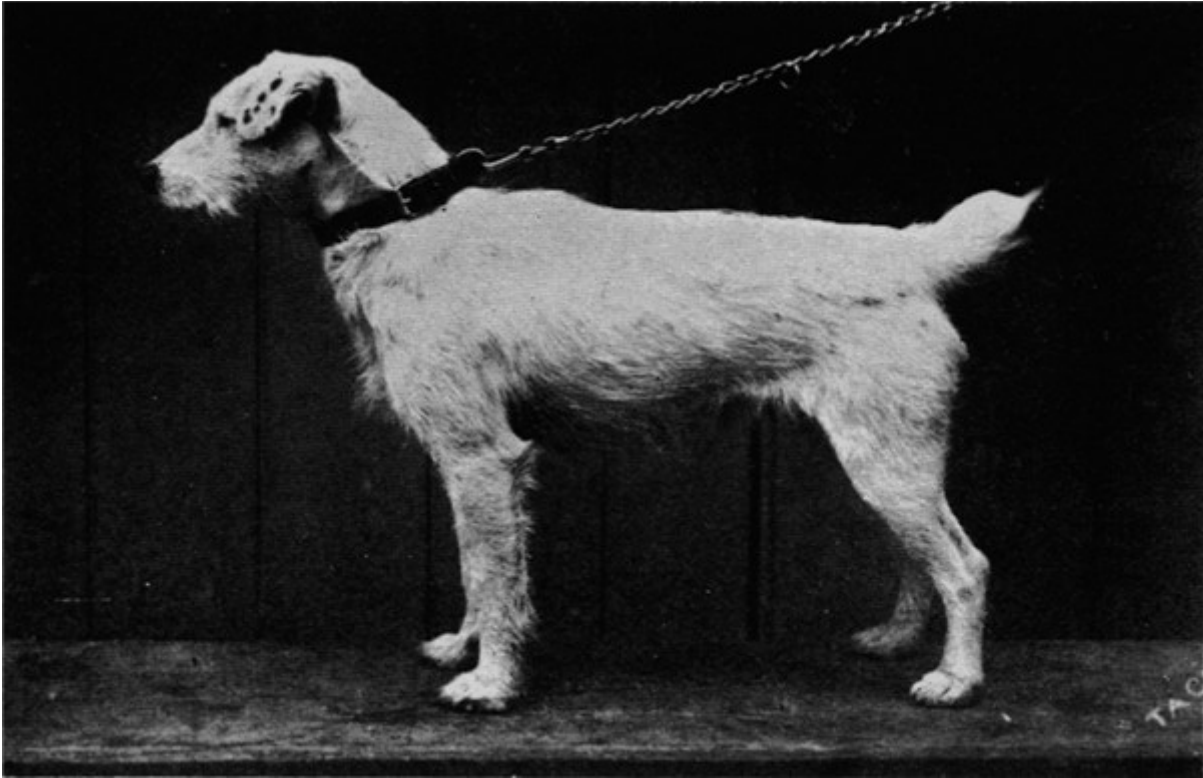
Meersbrook Bristles 1892

It would be 15 years before OLD TIP was available for John Edwardes to breed into his terriers.

By 1892 (a year after Edwardes death) the Fox terrier “Meersbrook Bristles “ was the first to display the Hound markings that are common in Fox terriers after this time.

Mr Fred Lewis , one of the early breeders and a friend of Captain Edwards, was opposed to this cross ever been made. However there are others that are certain that Wire Fox Terriers did play a part in the Sealyham’s development, but is hard to justify when we know the Fox terrier’s real history.

This could have taken place after the death of the Captain. What we know for sure (thanks to Mr. Henry Sutliff) is that a Smooth Fox Terrier was used (remembering that at this time Wire and Smooth were selected from the same litters). On a pedigree found by Mr Sutliff in the Dyfed archives in 1989, it is clearly shown that a Smooth Fox Terrier was used. The pedigree is of the bitch "Microbe" born 1906. Her grandfather Dip II (father to the famous Peer Gynt) was a great grandson to a Smooth Fox Terrier.



Carlisle Tack, Fox Terrier born in 1884, who was owned by Parson John Russell

3. Inbreeding and Culling

Normally the first sign of inbreeding is that the "Type or stamp" of terrier starts to emerge quickly when a strain is being established. It would seem that the first dog shows threw up a very varied type of terrier. This would indicate that up to 1910 various different types of unknown ancestry were entering the strain. If we were to travel back to these shows and look into the ring I think that most would agree that the Sealyham on view is a much taller dog than we would expect.



1910 Judging the Sealyhams of which there were 70 exhibits.



Champion Chawston Bess and Champion Chawston Betty Sealyham terriers at of this period.

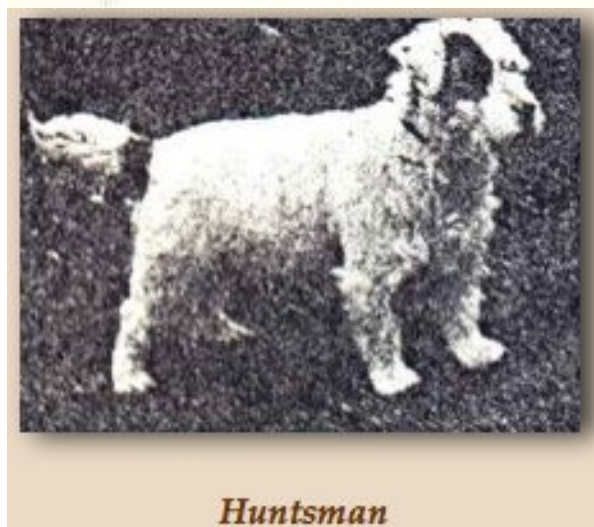
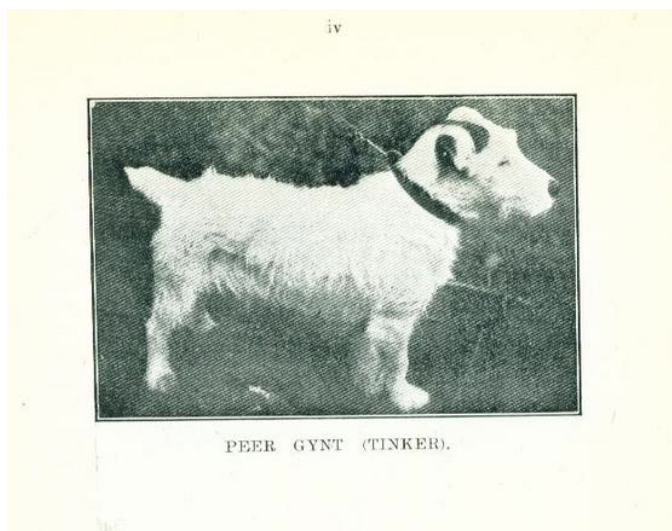


Best Sealyham terrier on the field at the show; Doctor Wilsons "Ding"

“Ding” would have passed as a Fox terrier 20 years earlier. At this stage of the Sealyham breeds development the original terriers of John Edwards strain were definitely lost and a new breed type was emerging.

Below is a side profile of “Ding” with another Sealyham of the day “Jock”. If they were in the field today they would be classed as Working Sealyham /Russell types.





Peer Gynt Born 1903

“Peer Gynt” weighed 27 pounds and it was said that he gave the breed the type and size that everybody wanted. The breed had already changed a good deal from Captain Edward’s type of Sealyham of 12 lb. “Peer Gynt” was used several times and he was the beginning of the "modern show Sealyham".

Huntsman weighed 24 pounds, both stud dogs were the foundation for the breed as it moved away from its working roots.



Pembrokeshire Hunt Hound Puppy and Sealyham terrier show 1914

This photo was taken in May 1914 at Slade, near Haverfordwest, 19 classes were included in the schedule. The show was called "Pembrokeshire Hunt Hound Puppy and Sealyham Terrier Show". There was no entry fee. The judges were Mr H. Ridley and Major Harry Jones. The entry was astounding, and has never been equalled either before or since. Again notice the length of leg on the exhibits.

The Open dog Class contained the large number of 71 entries. First prize was given to "**Ivo Challenger**". In open class bitches, entries 64, "**Gessima**" got the first prize. Best Stud dog with a working certificate was given to "**Roger Bach**".



Roger Bach 1915

From this period onwards inbreeding of Half Brother / Half sister became the norm as the shorter and heavier dogs took the fancy of the kennel Club judges.

Below is a pedigree from 1912 of the Stud Dog "Bob Sawyer". "Peer Gynt" appears twice, the Sire and Dam were related. From the point of view of the Working terrier world, this is the branch in the road where the Sealyham breed divides.

SEALYHAM TERRIER AT STUD.



"BOB SAWYER."

BORN JULY 20TH, 1912.

BOB SAWYER is probably the most typical Sealyham now being shown. He has a beautiful front with good legs and feet, and just the requisite length of body, his strength of head and foreface leave nothing to be desired. He has a real hard coat and a dark terrier eye. Weight 18 lbs. Although shown very little, he is a winner at Crystal Palace and Crafts', and is already Sire of some very promising pups.

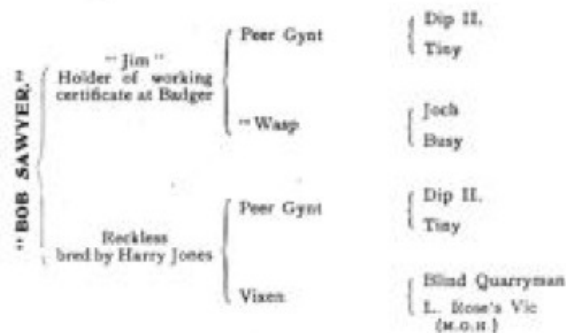
STUD FEE

3 Guineas.

Bred and Owned by

H. RIDLEY, "Helenscote," Ipswich.

PEDIGREE.



4. Breed Sponsors

The breed was recognised by the Kennel Club in 1911, just 8 years after the first Sealyham Show and only 3 years after the Sealyham Club had been started at the smoking room in Sealyham Hall.

This period saw a small number of major kennels begin to select the type that would dominate the show classes in the years up to the second world war, and from there the ruination of the breed.

This should stand as a warning to working terrier kennels.

“There is no greater danger to working terriers than admiration in the show ring”.

To fulfil the Supply and Demand in the old days many a dog was drawn from the Sealyhams which were out at walk at the farms all over the place, and scores of them being never recalled. And it was this fact that helped the supply indeed, it provided four fifths of the terriers which were regularly sold from a district which is known to be one where dog-dealing is one of the “professions.”

What Norwich canaries have been to Norwich, what Orpington fowls have been to Orpington, the Sealyham has been to Haverfordwest. That these dogs have been warranted to do this and accomplish that, we all know. It must be said that the majority have come up to the expected mark, for the dealer generally is aware of the kind of man to whom he is sending a dog on approval.

In those days butchers and local cattle, sheep and dog dealers were always on the look out for Captain Edwardes’ terriers at the outside county fairs.

“How much d’ye want for the little dog?” one dealer, with a falsetto voice, is reported to have asked a countryman. “Don’t know: how much will y’give?” “Well, dogs is down y’know. I’ll give you nine pence for’ en.”

These nine penny dogs grew into many guineas.

Another name that must be mentioned here is Sir Jocelyn Morton Lucas, an army officer who bought his first Sealyhams in 1909 – 12 small Sealyham Terriers from Capt. Jack Howell (M.F.H.) and a pack of working Sealyhams from Mr. Gladdish Hulk. These dogs formed the foundation stock of his famous Ilmer line.



Lucas (third from left) at Chequers after a dig, note the dog sitting at his knee (close up below left).



Compare this dog to a white terrier in Cork - 2012. (the Cork dogs coat has been clipped)

Lucas was another influential breeder and sponsor at this time. He was a consummate showman and avid hunter in his early days.

Even though Lucas promoted the working side of the Sealyham, his own selection was favouring the Show type. In the end he gave up on the show Sealyham as they were just too big to get to ground.

A revealing article from one of the kennel girls who managed the pack for Lucas appeared in 1987, it stated that he had given up digging and contented himself with a mixed pack above ground for flushing to gun. (See the full article in Appendix 2).

In the 1940s, Sir Jocelyn and his kennel partner, Mrs. Enid Plummer, decided to cross the smaller Sealyham bitches with a Norfolk Terrier. (another KC show fabrication) but this was doomed to failure.



Captain Jocelyn Lucas after a successful dig 1910.



Sir Jocelyn Lucas and the kennel girls at his puppy farm 1959

At the Ilmer kennels, 200 - 300 puppies were bred each year. An average of six litters a month was bred and the majority of litters by the Ilmers sires were brought in and that was a great help to the novice breeder. About 50 puppies a year went to American owners. No fighter or bad-tempered dog was ever kept or bred from. Sir Jocelyn avoided the pink eye rims and the woolly coats.

It made little difference, people soon realised that this Show Terrier had neither form nor function and it's popularity declined. Today this show type is near extinction.

It has been classed as a vulnerable breed as there are less than 80 pups registered with the KC each year. In less than 20 years the Show Sealyham should be extinct.

(For more information iefer to Appendix 3).

TERRIER	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Sealyham Terrier	60	51	58	57	65	43	47	49	63	76

Sealyham pups registered with the KC in the last 10 years.

Any number less than 300 pups per year is critical.

5. The Working Sealyham today

After the First World War (1918) the Sealyham types that were still working branched away from the Show type. These dogs would have been known by many names, Working Sealyham's, Rough coated Jack Russells, Working Fox terriers and local hunt terriers would have been utilised for Fox, Badger and Otter in every part of the British isles.



"Duck" 1910, Dam of "Ivo Challenger"



Typical Sealyham Terrier 1910



1913 Sealyham



1917 Sealyham

They would be strong, wire coated, dogs that 40 years earlier (1870) could have passed as any of these breeds. There are a couple of working Sealyham "type" strains working in the field today. They were defined by the work they did and their shape and weight by the quarry they hunted.

The Cork Line.

Firstly there is a "White Terrier line" in Southern Ireland that has been hunting continuously for nearly 100 years. The terriermen in and around the suburbs of Cork City have always been heavily involved in hunting.

Beagling, Harriers both drag racing and packs, Greyhounds, following Foxhounds in country and Otterhounds on the river. Terriers of course were a big part of this heritage,

the Murrays brothers, Tommy Riley and Jerry Allen (1950's) were at the forefront of this first wave and there were numerous other kennels as well.

These men had the foresight to keep their bloodlines tight, to outcross from hunt kennels like the De-Vere (Waterford) and the Scarteen kennels. to maintain a high standard and learn the line breeding techniques of the established packs. They imported many dogs from Britain and Northern Ireland, the first Border, Fell, Russell, even Bedlington usually came through these kennels. But in the end the dogs that they had as a root stock were the backbone of the line and they knew what to do with them, no excuses.

These men saw a new generation like Frank Longfield (First secretary of the original Irish Working terrier Club), Blondy Paddy, (1960's) and after them Barrett, Bridgeman, Curtayne, Hendricks, and many more take up the task of breeding the best dog for the job in hand. The 70's, 80's and 90's saw many new kennels champion the white line and today it is a credit to these men who have stayed the course when the black terrier craze hit Ireland.



Cork City pre 1940 looking West, showing the old areas of Blackpool and Blarney street. The fields at the top of the photograph were to become the housing estates of Churchfield, Fairhill, Gurranabraher and Farranree in the 50's, where many working terrier kennels exist today. Behind the photographer the City also expanded outwards to become the new area of Mayfield

Like most cities on these islands between the wars the building of improved housing was a government policy to tackle the poor health of families in the inner cities. At the same time there was a migration from the country into these new housing estates and these rural families brought more of the animal husbandry and country sporting traditions with them.

These dogs were originally ...



To be continued.....

In the UK men like Bert Gripton were using this type of terrier for working Fox, Otter and Badger.



Bert Gripton with his "Jack Russell type" terriers,

Note the all white terrier to Bert's right hand, small, strong and bow legged.

Terriers for Sale

JACK RUSSELL terriers; three months and two months;
parents small; game; best in the midlands; as exported.—
BERT GRIPTON, Hunt Terrier Man,

Bert offered a selection from different litters – as exported.

JACK RUSSELL PUPPIES, of the finest breeding possible,
parents can be seen at work six days a week. The only
kennel in the country containing five stud dogs and
twenty brood bitches that are *all* absolutely first class
above and below ground. Satisfied customers are my
best advert. Rough, smooth, and broken coats.—Bert
Gripton, Hunt Terrier Man, Blymhill, Shifnal, Salop.

Gripton's 5 stud dogs and 20 Brood bitches.

Bert Gripton had a kennel of small crossbred Jack Russell type terriers. He was terrierman to several packs in his lifetime and a renowned digging man. Bert was a great character

and worked dogs all of his life. He also was in the business of selling a lot of terriers and supplied one of the first of these small Russell terriers brought into Ireland.

Around 1961 a man named Mick Walsh in Cork bought a terrier from Bert. This dog was said to be "proven" and was sent over on trial, a guaranteed dog.

Seemingly Bert was a very confident man to talk to over the phone, and the dog was ferried across the Irish sea with great expectations.

In the field this terrier turned out to be worse than useless, so Mick made several phone calls to Bert but got very little satisfaction. It must be said that men who saw this terrier believed that he should have been given more time to settle before being tried. Regardless Mick was not happy with the dog.

Now at this time Bert was terrierman for the Hawkstone Otterhounds, he spent 2 years with them. The Hawkstone would visit Ireland for a couple of weeks in the summer months each year to hunt the rivers in the midlands.



Hawkestone Otter Hounds (White terrier with huntaman).

This man resolved to travel up the country and confront Bert about the dog. Unfortunately Bert did not make the journey that year but another hunt terrierman did.

While Mick waited to meet this terrierman, he noticed two other guys standing around with terriers that looked very similar to the dog at the end of his lead. It turned out that they were also waiting to have a chat with Bert about their "guaranteed" dogs. The word got back to Bert that his name was not being held in such high esteem in Ireland.

In fairness to Bert another bitch was shipped over to the man in Cork and the replacement bitch was a very good worker, she was bred with local white terriers and a line of dogs has been in existence ever since.

It seems even the legends can have a bad day!

From a discussion with F.L. in 2012 and G.A. in 2015.

“All our dogs can not be absolutely first class workers.”

This Bitch Meg and 2 of her daughters were given to Tommy O Reilly in 1963 when Mick had to get out of working terriers. This was a purple phase in the breeding of the Cork Line.

Tommy had the foresight to breed these bitches to Hunt terriers of the time and the level of success of these litters started the line existing today. Names like O'Reilly, Allen, Murray, were vital at this stage of the development. With other terriermen of the time they set a standard that is still be achieved today.

The credit can not of course be attributed to this bitch alone, a terrier dog called "Tip" came to Ireland from Morris Richardsons team of working Sealyhams a little later.



Morris Richardsons working Sealyham type terrier "Tip".

He was an outstanding dog on fox and badger and produced some excellent workers when bred into this white line.

Now another twist is that it was thought he was an old Sealyham line until recently, when it came to light that he had "White Lakeland" blood from the Middleton line in his pedigree, in other words early Fox Terrier.

“Tip” is not in every pedigree in the strains of the Cork line and some prefer it that way.

So what we now know is that the Cork white line are a mixture of Rough Russell, original Sealyham type and very old Fox terriers. All three of these strains originated from the same source dogs in the 1850's, it would seem that the breeding has come full circle.

To be continued.....

Appendix 1

Appendix 2

A TIME IN THE PAST

with Sir Jocelyn Lucas' hunting terriers

by Peggy Grayson

There are not many people that have hunted with a pack of terriers. One of the few was Sir *Jocelyn Lucas Bt, Mc, MP* (Bt. =Baron, Mc= Member of Commons, MP= Member of Parliament).

He was an old time hunting fan and sportsman. Sir Jocelyn loved sports of all kind and a big part of his

childhood was spent hunting rabbits and fishing. As a grown up he was a diligent hunter and also a very good horseman and was at one occasion "Master of Harriers" in Norfolk. For several years he used a pack of Otter hounds and Sealyhams. The Sealyhams were used for badger- and fox hunting.



Badger digging - nearing the end.

Sir Jocelyn was a first class hunter and was often invited as a guest to the big hunts in the country. He bred Sealyham terriers during most of his life. Many of his breedings were shown with success - one was the famous Ch Edwalton Chum - all of the Sealyhams were taught to kill at an early age. He took the dog to an enclosed pasture where there was a living rat in a crate.

After a couple of days he let the rat out and the puppies, some of them not older than four months, killed the rat immediately. At the end of the 1940's I was hired as a manager of his Ilmer Kennel in Watford. He had another kennel in Margate, Herts and the manager there was Mrs Plummer. The Ilmer kennel had a lot of bitches, 10 - 12 males, puppies in all ages plus some strange "dogs". He had Speagels - as we called them. A mix between a Beagle dog and a

managed to get several law suggestions through the Parliament that gave animals better living conditions. He got much more accomplished there than the shouting and military type we see and hear of today.

On the hunting days we had to leave home at about 8 - 8.30 in the mornings which meant that all kennel staff was up very early. We had to pick out about ten Sealyhams - of course no pregnant bitches or bitches in season could come. It was also very important that we did not pick out two males that not could stand each other.

Sir Jocelyn had a big American Van and we loaded the dogs in the back together with the old Speagle and one of the kennel girls . I sat in the front seat. The dogs were always very excited since they knew what was going on and what they could expect for the day. It was often enough that one of the dogs growled for a minor thing and we had a big dogfight in the back. (Poor kennel girl). I have a lot of memories from these fights since Sir Jocelyn had to stop the car with an application of the brakes and we all run out of the car to bring out all the dogs on the road and try to separate the fighters from each other. Just think about it if you had to do the same thing in today's traffic! These hunts brought us to many nice Mansions that always were situated miles from civilisation. Very often Mrs Plummer joined us and the today's host often invited his friends to join the hunt.

One impressing Mansion that we visited almost every month was owned by a diplomat of some sort. It was the place that we liked the least since he often invited other diplomats and official persons from foreign embassies to join us. They were terrible hunters since they were very wild and not at all careful which led to that most of us at some occasion get shot and injured.

I hated this place also because we often lost one or more of our dogs there during one day because the guests were so incautious. They hunted after the principle to shoot first and ask later. They all dressed up in the latest "hunting fashion" and in lot of bullets so they looked more like guerrilla soldiers than sportsmen.

The day started always with the host offering his guests a drink and for us lemonade was served. Sir Jocelyn kept his control over the dogs by his hunting horn and a whip. The rest of us had whips that we used with enthusiasm against the dogs that did not behave. They always knew what that meant. I still have a very pretty whip that I got for Christmas one year from Sir Jocelyn. The dogs were used for driving and they worked with a lot of energy in the brush-wood. They drove the rabbits

black Cocker Spaniel bitch. These puppies had a fantastic sense of smell and a powerful bark when they were out working. We had several Beagle bitches plus dear Rioter. He was probably the biggest Basset there ever was.

Rioter had his kennel at the front side of the house and warned all of us when somebody was entering the premises. Nights with full moon he got the whole kennel to join him in a

"song" that was both very loud and very sad. I had my Spaniels living in the kennel too and a red cat that daily was balancing between life and death when he walked on the roof above the kennel runs which made the terriers furious since they felt offended over this "catwalk" and the arrogant cat. We were all convinced that one day the cat would fall down in to one of the runs - but he never did.



Otter Hunting

The old Sealyhams that were not used for hunting anymore lived inside the house where they slept on the sofa. They accepted the cat as one of their own. Shows were rare, but during September to March every year there were hunts at least twice a week. In those days England had a lot of Mansions and big farms that were privately owned in Herefordshire and the landscape had not yet been destroyed by town buildings and highways. Sir Jocelyn and his dogs had always more invitations to hunting's than they could go to but he accepted as many as possible in spite of that he was a very busy man and an efficient member of the parliament specially when it came to animals and their well being and he

and pheasants in hundreds from their nests.

We had to stay close to the dogs because if we were not there in time the small animals would soon be eaten up by the dogs. That meant that we had to crawl in the bushes, often thorn bushes, to try and save a rabbit from two Sealyhams one in each end of the rabbit and both convinced that they would not give the rabbit up.

When a rabbit or a pheasants had been shot the hosts Retrievers were there to retrieve them as soon as possible - if not then the Sealyhams would eat it up!!!!

After about three hours hunting it was time for lunch. The host had always a big picnic basket full of food and drinks for his guests. I can only remember one place where no food was offered. We always had sandwiches that we had brought with us and we ate them while the dogs were sitting around us looking.

It was always a short break and then we continued with the hunt until it got dark. Then came the hard work to try and get all the Sealyhams together again and put them in the car so we could go home. Usually one or two were always missing and sometimes it got to midnight before we had found them all. They had usually gotten in to a badgers hole and they would not let us know where they were until they wanted too. Some maybe had found a dead rabbit and was having a feast behind a bush. Other might have gone bird hunting - I did not like that - One of the "bird hunters " was Mr Jones - that once killed 40 hens that I had bred. He just opened the kennel gate and dug under the fence and got to the henhouse.

When we had collected all the dogs and put them in the car we sat down in the car and waited for Sir Jocelyn. He was always invited inside the house for drinks and this could take all between 10 minutes to 1 hour. Meanwhile we were sitting in the car among the wet , snoring Sealyhams. Sometimes a maid brought us a glass of lemonade while we were waiting. A cup of tea or some hot soup had been so much more welcomed by us than the cold lemonade but we never were offered that. Once we got some whiskey but that was only once.

It was always past 8 in the evening before we got back to the kennel and then we had to go through all the dogs to look for wounds and thorns. We looked in their ears, eyes, coat and feet. If there were any serious wounds we had to take the dog to the vet immediately and he was 8 kilometres away. We had an agreement with him that he would always help us after the hunts and he did. After that we fed the dogs and said good night to them and then we could have something to eat ourselves. We were never in bed before midnight.

Sometimes we were asked if we wanted to be part of a classical Fox hunting

which meant a lot of walking during one day - about 25 - 35 kilometres.

The Foxes are cunning and fast and there were a lot of them living in the woods. The hunters never managed to kill enough of them to protect the birds that was bred in the farms and lived in the hen houses. I guess that today's fox is not so big and fat as they were then since most of our hens today live in big broiler farms and he could not get them there.

The foxes caused a lot of damaged and economical loss for the farmers and fox hunting was organised on a regular basis. Only the best hunters were invited to these hunts since the fox is both cunning and fast. Even if

the dogs got them out of their hole I can never remember that we shot more than three foxes in one day. They were very smart and hard to hunt down.

On a hunt like this Sir Jocelyn always had his rifle with him and if any fox was shot that day he had at least gotten one of them because he was fast, skilled and nothing managed to escape from him.

Today the kennel is not existing. The land has been developed and when I drive through Watford towards St Albans I can hardly recognise anything. The small suburbs looks as different from our old kennel houses as the neat gardens from the fields where we used to go hunting. A time has passed.

Written for the Sealyham Nytt 1987

Appendix 3

Below is an newspaper article from 2009

The Telegraph

Terrier breed 'may disappear', warns Kennel Club

A once fashionable breed of dog, the Sealyham Terrier, which was popular with film stars in the 1950s, is on the brink of dying out, according to the Kennel Club.

The once popular Sealyham terrier has shown the sharpest decline in numbers of any breed registered with the Kennel club By Richard Savill 04 Feb 2009

The breed, which was also a favourite of the Queen Mother and of Princess Margaret, has appeared in the top three of the Club's most endangered list for the first time.

Paul Keevil, of the Kennel Club's vulnerable breeds committee, said: "The plight of the Sealyham Terrier has been on our radar for some time as their numbers are in freefall.

"It is a breed on our vulnerable register which is giving us great cause for concern."

Mr Keevil said the breed would once regularly register 1,000 puppies a year. However last year only 43 puppies were registered.

He said: "Such a drastic reduction in numbers is unsustainable, if they carry on as they are then eventually they will just disappear."



A Sealyham wins the top Kennel Club honour! The public are not that blind.

Only the Kennel Club can see value in a dog like this.