

SF EXA

1-7-76

Best Bomb Hunters On the Force--2 Dogs

The Police Department's two most adept locators of bombs are not human. They are dogs.

Bourbon, a huge German Shepherd, sniffed out the one found today at Crocker Citizens National Bank at 1 Montgomery St. (although police already had the safe deposit box number).

Richter, a dog of similar breed, "indicated" the area where a bomb had been placed in a safe deposit box in Wells Fargo Bank across the street.

Bourbon and Richter are the only bomb locators in the Dog Patrol of the de-

partment's Crime Prevention Detail.

Their skill is the result of six months intensive training in which they were trained in "retrieving" known components of explosives devices.

Despite today's 100 percent success, Sgt. Arthur O'Keefe says training of Bourbon and Richter is incomplete and probably will not be finished for another month.

The idea of bomb sniffing by dog did not originate in San Francisco. Sgt. O'Keefe said it was perfected by Washington, D.C., police where the ser-

geant was schooled in the technique last year.

The dog's success can be recognized only by his handler, who notes some telltale sign in the dog's behavior. In Bourbon's case, he signals to Patrolman William Langlois through a change in pitch in his growl.

Other signals, according to Sgt. O'Keefe, can be heavy breathing, a sharp bark, or a sudden fit of pawing.

The dog detail has one member named Nitro but he hasn't shown much expertise as a bomb sniffer, said the sergeant.