

by a dog. In these cases the Crown must first establish the qualifications of the dog; the handler must be accepted as an expert witness, and the dog's evidence must be used as corroborative evidence.³

The Formal Era

The Formal Era⁴ of the Canadian Police Dog Services program began in May 1935, when the RCMP purchased Black Lux, son of Dale. In October 1935 Dale was *officially* taken on strength,⁵ and was followed by another German shepherd, Sultan. Dale worked in Alberta and later Saskatchewan, where Black Lux was posted until being sent to the Maritimes. Sultan served in Manitoba.⁶

From the outset, the police service dogs consistently proved their worth. In 1937 a training school and a kennel were established at Calgary, Alberta, by order of Commissioner James H. MacBrien.⁷ As the demand for this service grew, more dogs were purchased and training was intensified. The RCMP Police Service Dog Section (as it was then called) grew by leaps and bounds. Since those early days the training kennels have been located in Vancouver, B.C.; Calgary, Alta.; Regina, Sask.; Rockcliffe, Ont.; Sydney, N.S.; Ramsayville, Ont., and lastly, at Innisfail, 60 miles north of Calgary.⁸

The Saga of Dale

Of all RCMP working dogs, P.S.D. K-470, Dale of Cawsalta, is probably the most legendary. His numerous exploits made him a popular canine hero with the public and the press. Dale gave nine years of outstanding service until his retirement in August 1939. As old age set upon him, he suffered from an internal growth, rheumatism, and heart strain. Subsequently retired from service, he spent his remaining days with his former owner, Sgt. Cawsey, and was humanely destroyed on September 6, 1941, at the age of twelve.

The *Calgary Herald* of September 17, 1941, featured an article on the death of Dale, calling him Canada's greatest canine policeman. News of his passing was carried in newspapers throughout North America. He had earned a Diploma of Honour from the "Dog World," a renown Chicago publication, for his work in saving the life of a sixteen-month-old child lost in the woods, and

3. *Police Dog Service*, p. 3.

4. Samuel G. Chapman, "The Law on a Leash in Canada," *RCMP Quarterly* Vol. 49 #1, Winter 1984, p. 17.

5. The literature about when the Formal Era began is contradictory. An *RCMP Quarterly* article published in 1951 notes that the Force's Dog Section was born when "Dale of Cawsalta... was purchased for official use and... was followed into the Force by his son, 'Black Lux'." See G. A. Teeft, "Dogs of the RCMP," *RCMP Quarterly* Vol. 16 #3, January 1951, p. 192. See also "Police Service Dogs," *RCMP Quarterly* Vol. 26 #2, October 1960, p. 88, and Royal Canadian Mounted Police, *Service Dog Section*, n.d. (c. 1968) p. 4. According to these publications, the Dog Section officially came into existence with the purchase of Dale. However, the RCMP's historical records show that although Dale was the first dog to work in the Force, he was owned and maintained by Sgt. Cawsey until October 15, 1935, at which time he was purchased for official duty. Black Lux preceded his sire into the Force by about five months.

6. Teeft, "Dogs of the RCMP," p. 192.

7. *Ibid.*, p. 194.

8. Royal Canadian Mounted Police, *Police Dog Service*. RCMP: Public Relations Branch, 1980, p. 3. The Innisfail facilities were established in 1965.